

# The Pickwick Magazine

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

Founded in 1870



"It was a still more exciting spectacle to behold, Mr Weller....immersing Mr Stiggin's head in a horse -trough full of water, and holding it there until he was half suffocated"

Editor: Mr Winkle Snr

Volume 13 No.2 October 2016

## Editorial ramblings.....

In the March edition I questioned whether our sportsmen & women could emulate their London 2012 success - well, didn't they just and then some. Obviously our specific interest was the cycling, and once again Team GB stepped up to the plate and produced magnificent entertainment with medal after medal and so many emotional moments for the riders. Congratulations to them and to all of the other participants from across the world. And we mustn't forget Chris Froome winning the Tour for the third time. Then there were more amazing feats at the Paralympics with plenty more cycling medals, with special mention of Dame Sarah Storey. Then an incredible Tour of Britain. And still more to come with Sir Bradley Wiggins and Mark Cavendish in the London 6-Day later in October. A glut of British cycling at its best.



Earlier in the year Mrs. Winkle accompanied me by coach to Rochester (car and M2 actually), and we alighted outside the Royal Victoria & Bull Hotel where our illustrious President and his friends spent the night. Wandering the old town we found Eastgate House (built in 1590-91) and 'renamed' as Westgate House in the early chapters of Pickwick Papers. Of interest was that the same house was seen again in the unfinished *Mystery of Edwin Drood* but this time as The Nun's House, Cloisterham. Rochester is a treasure trove of memories if you are a Dickens historian, and with the castle as a back drop, it's well worth a visit.

As you will read further on, we have again lost some club members during this year, the most notable being Mr. Cycling - David Duffield (aka Mr. Ayresleigh). We have been fortunate to obtain a professional bird's eye profile from Peter Lumley (editor of *b2b Bicycle Trade and Industry* magazine) of his friend David.

Finally and regrettably, it is again necessary to remind everybody about their manners at the Club luncheons. Note carefully what Buzfuz has to say, and remember it!

.....Mr. Winkle Snr/Editor

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**Closing Date for the next issue - January 31st 2017**

## *A Secretarial Report*

from *Sgt Buzfuz*

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

Dear Pickwickians

Another summer almost over. As I write this, I reflect on the summer months with improved weather as we approach the bank holiday. I was sorry to miss Benson for the first time in many years, due to a damaged knee but it did allow me to play in the golf tournament - enjoyed by all. I got round with the aid of painkillers and would have failed any drug test. My guests enjoyed the day with one saying that if he is not invited next year can he come and pay for himself. I hope to make Hampton Court but work pressures are building for October, with matters as far afield as Kent, Hertfordshire and Guernsey to be dealt with.

You should by now have notice of the AGM held immediately before the Garden Party on 1st December. An item on the agenda is how to celebrate the club's forthcoming 150th anniversary in 2020. Any thoughts, please pass to any committee member/officer or me. On the question of officers, our esteemed Captain, Dismal Jemmy, has indicated his wish to stand down, so his running of the Garden Party will be his last. He has served us for 7 years and we give him thanks. We need to elect a successor at the AGM, nominations need to be proposed and seconded in writing together with an agreement by the candidate to serve if elected. Such proposals need to be with me at least 21 days before the AGM i.e. by 9th November. The speaker at the Garden Party is the well known comedian, author and broadcaster Dominic Holland who has appeared on television and with his own program on radio4.

Numbers for the luncheon on the 1st December will be limited to 550, with each guest having up to 5 tickets including their own. All applications received by the 27th October will receive their full allocation; applications will be accepted up to the 9th November on a first come first served basis. If we exceed 550 late entries may be disappointed. The list closes on the 9th to allow Mrs. Bardell time to arrange the seating plan. There have been concerns from Officers, and members with the behaviour of some guests during the luncheon. A reminder is that jacket and ties are to be worn at all times and that attention and silence is expected when anyone is speaking. You are responsible for your guests please keep them in order. Another concern is the rude attention of some members and guests to the need to be in your seats before 1.00p.m. We send the trumpeters to the hostelry opposite at 12.30pm as a reminder to drink up and move towards the luncheon in the Grand Hall.

And finally, wine orders will only be taken outside the room until 12.50pm after which you will need to order from your table. The wine order table is available before the AGM, which starts at 11.00am. The bars also close at 12.50pm, until after Mr. Pickwick and our principal guest have taken their seats. I hope to see as many of you as possible at Hampton Court otherwise at the Garden Party.

Regards Buzfuz Hon Sec.



## The Captain



We normally reserve this space for the Captain's succinct message but it is with considerable sadness we announce that Dismal Jemmy (Bob Upton) has decided to step down after countless years of trying to control us all at the May & December Luncheons. His dulcet tones, suitably amplified by the excellent sound system (!) at the Connaught Rooms, will be heard for the final time at the Annual Garden Party.

We will all miss his cajoling to sing with gusto, and the strident pleas for "SILENCE" when other people are speaking. So let's all behave in December and do as requested. Thank you Captain on behalf of the Club.

## Your President comments on his year.....

**My President's Year** just exceeds its half way mark and to-date I have greatly enjoyed the time. My first arranged trip was to Coventry for the Rugby match Wasps-vs-Northampton and due to an error by the ticket office our excellent tickets were free of costs. An earlier meet at a local pub was very well received. For my part the disaster of the puncture on the motorway and a very unsatisfactory limping to a tyre shop near Oxford, derailed my earlier attendance at the hostelry. However, we had a great time and it was good to see the Pickwickians and their guests.

The May Spring Luncheon was a great success with better attention from the New Connaught as to food and service although with such large numbers of attendees complete satisfaction is always impossible. I think most will agree our guest speaker Bob-The Cat-Bevan was one of the funniest and amusing speakers we've had for many a year. The raucous laughter and applause certainly suggested this.

My cricket trip to the Oval for Surrey-vs-Sussex was also a considerable success with good food, weather, cricket and Pickwickian hospitality. Our own Prince of Wales dining room and balcony made the event. We were honoured by the presence of cricketing greats Mickey Stewart and Doug Insole, together with a visit to the Committee Room and meeting Sir Trevor Macdonald. It was my regret that Sir John Major wasn't also available to meet us. (The endless alcohol was gratefully received.) We certainly could have accommodated many more Pickwickians, but regardless a good time was had by all.

I have arranged a trip to the Leather Bottle Cobham Kent on Sunday 18th September. This hostelry has enormous connections with Charles Dickens, he having stayed there and it is almost a museum in his honour. Those interested will complete a cycle ride prior to the meal. I have no doubt this will be an enjoyable event.

Due to my own trip to the Tour de France, I was sorry to miss the Benson Ride and our Mr. Pickwick goes to France. The Golf Day was a fine event in good weather and with a strong attendance. There were some good golfers amongst our guests and my guests and others can't wait for next year. I suspect the Hampton Court Ride will have a record attendance and do hope to meet many of you there.

Finally, I have been lucky to book comedian Dominic Holland as our guest speaker for our 147th Annual Garden Party. I assure you he will be hilariously funny so you should try not to miss this.

Pickwickian greetings to you all

Brian Vandervilt - Samuel Pickwick



## President's Spring Luncheon - May 2016

**Just** by way of a change the weather was more summer than spring for this annual Luncheon, with Pickwickian crowds gathered outside the Hercules Pillars enjoying the sunshine. Mr. Watty had arrived 'sans velocipede', and his gait was much improved, but he was concerned about the whereabouts of the Ordinary that he would require later. There was a pleasant mood in the anteroom with the buzz of voices then broken by the trumpet fanfare - by two members of the Parachute Regiment, summoning everyone to lunch. Our Captain tested our ability to sing, if not the correct words, at least with some gusto. Our President arrived with his guest, and proceedings began.



The circular tables at the President's Luncheon lent themselves to more mixed conversations than the long tables in December, but sometimes the Captain was still drowned out by this. Mr. Dumkins stepped in to remind everyone - in a powerful voice, that when the Captain spoke, then there should be silence.



The Captain welcomed the 'oldest member' - and Mr. Watty duly rode (yes he found the Ordinary) to the President's table to take wine, and be formally requested to join the members for lunch. Past President, Samkin then welcomed the guests to our luncheon (see full list on pages 9 & 10).





Due to timing, our principal guest, Bob 'The Cat' Bevan then entertained us with many stories of his working life, sporting prowess, and the fact that he is (now) married to one of the dancers from Pan's People. Bob is listed as one of Britain's funniest after dinner speakers having turned professional in 1980, regaling audiences about his first love - playing amateur football, closely followed by all forms of cricket at which he was allegedly a demon bowler. Also he was President of Kent CCC in 2014. Bob concluded with the toast to the "Immortal Memory of the Club".

With normal service being resumed after Bob left, it was the turn of the venerable Boys of the Old Brigade in their scarlet jackets to bring the Joseph Atto Punchbowl to the President's table and take wine. (Just a reminder for those new members - Joseph Atto bequeathed £1000 to the PBC on his death in 1918 to cover the costs of the annual toast known as 'The Toast of Prosperity to the Pickwick Bicycle Club'.



There followed a special presentation of a recently discovered Club trophy. The replica Winkle's Challenge Golf Cup had been discovered by the family of the recipient - Mr Grundy (aka J A Wilding)- in 1927. Our own Mr Brooks had, with his usual timing negotiated the princely sum of £50 to secure it for the club. The President duly presented it to Club Golf Secretary - Smithers.



Hon Sec Buzfuz then took to his feet to welcome four new members, who made suitable noises when given their soubriquets, accompanied by guffaws, and applause from the assembled masses. They were: Andrew Donald - Charles Fitz-Marshall; Scott Lovett - Mr. Miller; Grant Young - Mr. Green; Nicholas Tribe- The Cobbler

Our President thanked everyone for the privilege of taking on the mantle of Samuel Pickwick and hoped that he could fulfill the role to the usual standard. He promised to organise some additional club activities during his tenure. He then asked all members to raise their glasses and toast their guests.



The afternoon concluded with the usual 'Auld Land Syne' and then, at Mr. Dumkin's bequest, photo opportunities with the two sets of military guests and the infamous Ordinary.

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### **Note:**

Don't forget the final gathering of the year on December 1st with the 146th Annual Garden Party. Details will follow by post from Buzfuz in due course.



## Luncheon Guest List by Samkin...

Gentlemen, I would like to welcome you all to our 2016 President's Luncheon. For those of you who have attended before, welcome back, and those who are here for the first time we hope you enjoy our traditions and Dickensian conviviality. We have with us today a number of guests worthy of special mention, although it must be said that members of The Pickwick Bicycle Club are delighted to see each and every one of you here.

On table 9 we have Mickey Stewart OBE, who Wisden describes as "a dapper, courageous opening batsman and specialist short-leg fielder". He scored 26,000 first class runs and took 635 catches, but only first class one wicket! On retirement Mickey became a coach, manager and administrator for both Surrey and England and was way ahead of his time in discipline, fitness, nutrition, technical supervision and planning. The current team owes a lot to Mickey for making the team professional and successful and it is also interesting to note that he was a footballer of some quality playing for Corinthian Casuals, Charlton Athletic and Wimbledon. Also on table 9 is Paul Volley, an English rugby union open-side flanker who played for Wasps for 16 years. He won the Zurich Premiership and Heineken Cup with Wasps in 2004. He then headed across the Channel to play for Castres in France, returning to captain Harlequins prior to joining London Scottish.

On table 14 we have Peter Kitchen, former professional footballer, who played in the football league in the 70's and 80's as a forward. He played for Doncaster Rovers, Leyton Orient, Fulham and Cardiff City making 430 appearances and scoring 165 goals. Peter also has a connection with Corinthian Casuals, having made 228 appearances for the veterans and scoring 280 goals, so there was still some mileage left in the old legs.

On table 39 we have Alf Engers, who is a former English racing cyclist who set national records and was national individual time trial champion from 1959 to late 1970s. He established a British 25 mile record of 49 minutes and 24 seconds in 1978, averaging 30.36 mph making him the first rider to average more than 30mph. In the Peloton (this is a 2 person mention) on table 17 we have the President Keith Penfold and on table 13 we have Chalky White Hon. Secretary of the Pedal Club.

On table 6 we have Carlton Kirby, whose voice is familiar to many of you through his coverage of cycling, motor sports, winter sports and Olympic commentaries on British television and throughout the world. Carlton has his own brand of "Coleman balls". I have picked out 2 for you to ponder on: "Look at those calves, he looks like he's smuggling frozen chickens". Another that appealed was "If you are hanging by the skin of your teeth, don't open your mouth".

## Samkin's Guest List cont'd.....

I would like to introduce our principal guest today, Bob "the Cat" Bevan; a man who left Wilsons Grammar School, Camberwell, South London, with one 'O' level in English Language. In spite of this, Bob has had four very successful careers: trainee salesman with a builders merchant; sub-editor on the world's oldest newspaper Lloyds List and Shipping Gazette being promoted to assistant chief reporter (not sure this was a promotion). At the same time using his selling skills moonlighting by selling brushes for Kleen-E-Eze. He then moved into PR with Hartford PR Limited and worked with European Ferries who were launching Townsend Thoresen car ferries. Finally in 1983 he turned his attention to the after-dinner circuit and the entertainment business. Bob has a keen passion for sport, with football being his first love. He has played some 500 games for Old Wilsonians FC in every position, and Kent League tennis for them and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Eleven cricket in the North Kent League. Since leaving school he has raised thousands of pounds for sports clubs and charities for which he was awarded an MBE. Setting aside Bob's business and sporting career for a moment, anyone over the age of 50 will be impressed to know that Bob's partner is one of the dancers in Pans People! - Lucky man!

Members of The Pickwick Club please now be upstanding, and the Toast is "Our Guests".

Samkin

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*Whilst the Golf Day report follows, the mention above of the newly acquired Winkle Cup Replica is great news, but leaves the Club with a dilemma of what to do with it. It seems a sensible move to use it for the Golf Day, and our organiser has suggested that perhaps it should be for nearest the pin, for a guest player. I can already hear Pruffle bemoaning the fact that the Golf Day has all the 'bxxxxx' cups, however I'm sure a sensible outcome will prevail. No doubt it will be Smithers guest who wins it though!* Editor



## The Organiser is the Winner!!

Dumkins tells the story of the Golf Day.....

The Annual Pickwick Golf Day once again took place on the magnificent Harpenden Common Golf Course on Thursday 16th June. This really is an event for everyone from complete beginners (like me), to professionals alike. The hot coffee and bacon rolls fortified everyone for the start of play and we had split tee times with some of us starting on the 10th to speed the process up! A mixed weather day meant that while it was warm and sunny we had to keep dodging some heavy rain showers, but this didn't dampen a great day! From memory there were around 12 members and 28 guests making it a thoroughly entertaining day.



Tim West/Crandyke Cup

Dumkins/Jinkins Balls



Tim West, whom some of you will know or remember as one of our long term trumpeters at our luncheons was my guest, and he posted the best score of the day, match this with my dire performance of the worst score, possibly in Pickwick Golf Day history, resulted in Tim getting the Crandyke Cup guest trophy and myself the Jinkins Balls Trophy. This gave me the dubious honour of getting my name on both the winners and



Smithers Wins!

Winkle Cup



Namby Cup

loser's trophy as the winner's trophy will state "Tim West guest of Mr. Dumkins" possibly a first! Our organiser Smithers accepted with some grace (and a trifle of embarrassment) both the Winkle Cup for nearest the pin, and Namby Cup as overall winner of the day. Alfred Jingle wrested the Blink Bowl away from Justice Stareleigh for his adventures on the bike ride. A great day as usual and as always really well organised by Smithers (David Lincoln). This event grows each year, and I realise that a lot of you as non-playing members may be put off but it really is open to ALL abilities and a great way to socialise with your club.

Look out for the date for next year's event at the Garden Party! Dumkins

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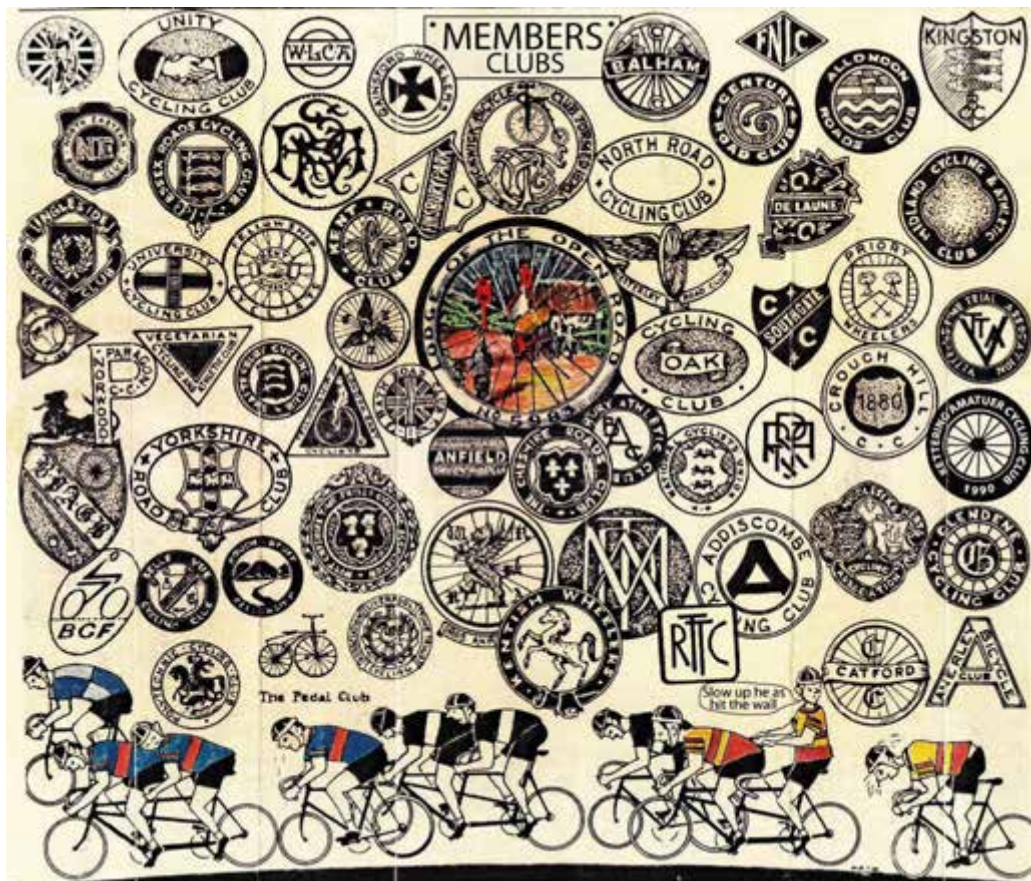


The cycling fraternity were somewhat lacking in numbers this year - sickness, late arrival, two bikes only two wheels, all manner of excuses extolled, but ably led by Justice Stareleigh, four of us set off into the Hertfordshire countryside. The weather wasn't as good as last year, and a lot of surface water was experienced along the route. Jingle (Ron Beale) had appeared with an 'old' bike that had been recently set up for him, and he manfully kept up with the pace of

the other three, as befits a future President of the Club. All went well until the aforementioned Jingle had a puncture. That's when the fun began. The old bike clearly still had old tyres, and took some effort to separate from the rim. The tyre levers-plastic we think, were "of no bxxxxx use at all". The pump was held together with Elastoplast and didn't work. So something akin to the Ferrari pit team on a bad day, all riders contributed some effort, with Justice Stareleigh producing metal tyre levers, Winkle Snr a working pump, and Mick Dobson (GS Lanterne Rouge) holding the frame off the ground whilst we let Jingle wrestle with the tyre/tube. The replacement tube was then reluctant to retain any air, however it was sufficient to enable him to set off at pace for the garden centre & coffee. On a positive note, Justice Stareleigh, who was bemoaning the loss of his arm warmers, found said articles within his tool pack. A relaxing coffee break, accompanied by a number of cycling colleagues of JS was enjoyed, whilst Jingle cleaned himself up and pumped up the tyre again. An uneventful journey back to the golf course followed, where we were joined by John Groves (also GS Lanterne Rouge) awaiting the golfers to finish, whilst watching the only decent match of England's futile attempts in the European Championship (yes there was one match!) Thanks again to Justice Stareleigh (Ron Gray) for organising the ride.

Winkle Snr





## Cycling Club Badges

With his usual expertise, Peter Magnus prepared and supplied a fascinating programme/menu for the lunch tables at the Golf Day. Apart from the golf details, and menu, the centre piece (above) was a collection of cycling club badges - within which can be found one for the Pickwick Bicycle Club. Equally notable, it is one that nobody (?-allegedly) has seen before. In case the above copy isn't clear enough, I would draw your attention to the badge just below the "Members Clubs" panel. If anybody has any further information on this badge, then we would be pleased to hear from you. Editor



## The Story of the Amateur Bicycle Club

*Mr. Brooks sent me this article about the Amateur Bicycle Club, courtesy of author Nick Clayton. The ABC appears to have been formed prior to the existence of our own Pickwick Bicycle Club. I will publish a suitably condensed version of this unique story over two editions of our magazine.*

In May 1994 Sothebys sold 3 lots, which comprised the complete records of the Amateur Bicycle Club from 1871-1903. The hoard consisted of 7 minute books, a quantity of bronze badges, a replica of the Members Gold Challenge Medal, and a quantity of printed and manuscript ephemera including bills, letters, menus, meet cards, rulebooks, and other items. The collection, under the patronage of Lorne Shields, is destined for Ottawa Museum, and he has kindly allowed copies to be made which it is intended will be available to researchers in England. It is a record of the earliest days of cycling, and will provide a new source for historians interested in the period. As a social document it has particular fascination because the ABC was a highly idiosyncratic club. It was written almost entirely by one man, the man who was the Honorary Secretary, and Treasurer of the ABC for over thirty years, Henry N. Custance Esq. In effect, it is the story of his adult life.

The first minute book begins in 1871 with the official founding of the club, and refers to an earlier meeting the previous January. Included is a letter from January 1870 referring to somebody 'who wishes to join the 'ABC'. The significance of this is that it is some 5 months prior to the formation of the Pickwick BC in June 1870. The PBC has generally been held as the senior English club.

In an 1877 edition of *Bicycling News* there was an anonymous article about the ABC, thought to be by Custance. "The ABC was founded by three or four friends dining together whilst discussing a tour taken in 1869 on boneshakers...the Club was quickly formed in 1871 from gentlemen belonging to the staff of Middlesex Hospital, the Skating Club and the London Rowing Club...the ABC was intended to be a club in which gentlemen could seek recreation and enjoyment...the Club is sufficiently large for the encouragement of sociability amongst its fifty or sixty members, who being of equal stations in life, have no difficulty in seeking companions for tours...the qualifications for candidature are perhaps very severe, but the executive have maintained that every candidate must own a bicycle, prove himself to be a gentleman, and be personally known to both his proposer & seconder".

Whilst today one might consider this to be a trifle snooty, it appears to have been of mixed benefit to the ABC since although the rule was maintained for the next 30 years, attendance at meets was reportedly very poor. The members were middle class and had many calls on their time participating in other hobbies – shooting, racquets, yachting & rowing. Many had countryseats, and others worked very hard. Various ideas were promoted to ease this problem but they never got around to accepting members who actually enjoyed going out cycling and had the time to do so.

In 1882 they **affected** a cash reward to the best attendees, but this had no effect on attendance and meant that Custance as Hon Sec, & Treasurer, and the most regular attendee simply pocketed the prizes. He was obliged to keep a tally of attendees and his statistics showed that there were about 1780 attendances over the 30 years: Custance with 593 accounted for nearly one third of them, with the next highest 168 by Tredway Clarke, the Captain from 1881-1888. In total there were about 90 members over the years; the 10 most active accounted for three quarters of all attendances.

## The Club Championship Gold Medal

The Gold Medal story featured prominently in the minute books, and the bronze replica included in the hoard is one of those given to the annual holder. In 1874 it was agreed to “expend a sum not exceeding £15 in the purchase of a 10 mile Champion Cup or Medal to be run for by bicyclists” in the hope of making bicycling more popular with the general public. The somewhat complicated rules for the contest were drawn up, and published in *Bells Life*. The famous professional John Keen proposed some rule alterations, which the ABC accepted, and he duly won the race in November. It was hoped that the following year the event would generate a larger meeting, but this failed to happen. In 1875 there were no challengers, and although Keen was entitled to a walk over, but since it was snowing he declined and handed the medal back.

The ABC recycled their medal and it became the Members Gold Challenge Medal, which was raced for twice a year, between the Lion Hotel, Barnet to Market Place, St Neots. Once again poor support of only 5 members contested the first race in April 1876, and this continued to affect the event over the next 25 years. In a biographical article about Custance the June 1877 *Bicycling News* reported that “he has done little racing, and contested the Challenge Medal three times, holding it from August 1873 until April 1877, when he was beaten by Mr. Crofton, who was also a member of the Dark Blue Bicycle Club.” The all-important minute books expose this little pork pie, since we have seen that the first race was in 1876 not 1873, and Custance only won it once when he was unopposed. It’s true that Crofton, who was a fair rider, did beat him in 1877, but so did Compton, the only other starter.



Fig. 21.2. Drawing of Henry N. Custance, probably done at the ABC dinner, 18 January 1879, by R. Gantony, the club artist.

*So we leave the ABC story until the March issue of our magazine, when we will learn about the bicycles they rode, their club meetings and the demise of the Club.*

## R.I.P David Duffield 1931-2016

The Voice: so expressive, resonant, inspiring.  
The man who made bicycling so much the people's thing

In an early year when the Tour de France raced in England, the Voice commentating on Eurosport came from Mr. Pickwick. In 1994 he sent me the photo here, my friendly table mate at many a Pickwick Bicycle Club gathering. David Duffield will be remembered all over the world: people tuned in to listen to him describing the Tour de France battle of will and wheels, even words from last evening's menu. The Tour de France is where David's voice resonated on the mic' for twenty years, bringing peer inside reporting of the world, which is bicycling. He knew about riding a bicycle, about racing a bicycle, and tricycles, too - he knew about making bicycles and he knew how to get them sold. David Duffield built his communication skills in an era when marketing the bicycle idea was more than hype and wordy manipulation of minds via social media.

My first recall of David is exactly the one Cycling Weekly used to report of his passing: hanging off a trike, fully committed, riding towards putting his name to another record. On his race shorts is the brand Phillips, a Midlands manufacturer with the proud slogan "Known the World Over" - words that are so true of David himself. He began working for the good of bicycling from that very company. The David Duffield I got to know was a big man in the Trade, full of vision and confident integrity. At a time when he didn't like the way the world cycle-race scene was heading under a Dutchman, he wrote: "the UCI is bonkers". Facing up to forces which preferred our cycling world stood still, David Duffield worked to ring changes within the UCI: where with its Verbruggen led ergonomic mindset, the organisation outrageously set to outlaw even the sloping top-tube on racing bicycles. Since at least 1893, it's been a most obvious feature on competition models: David Duffield's common sense thinking on the matter saw through in the end, much to the chagrin of a former choc bar salesman trying to rewrite cycling's heritage from his UCI fiefdom.





With Alex Moulton

David loved stylish bicycle products; the launch and marketing of the innovative Moulton brand had the seal of his professional ability. Later he primed the introduction into Britain of BMX, checking it out Stateside on a trip paid from his own pocket when working at the Halfords operation. Others soon realised the Trade opportunity, his strategic thinking and involved action led the way forward for BMX. Later, at industry level,

David Duffield added his commanding voice to the European Bicycle Manufacturers Association's inaugural session; helping make sure the movement would become reality for the industry. Some didn't like what he said then: but it'd appear he was right on the ball and the rest is history. Always ready to spot add-value opportunities for bicycling, David Duffield thought bikes like Miguel Indurain's monocoque Pinarello Espada was the lead shops could follow. Bright and innovative designs would spur more buyers to purchase more bikes, he was sure: result, the Trade would benefit with a healthier bottom line.

Away from the cycle sport scene, in 1978 David Duffield organised the bicycles for the 65 naked lady models for the "I want to ride my bicycle" video by The Queen rock band. That film shoot at Wimbledon Racecourse became a Queen poster and an add-value offer with the band's records, such as the album Jazz and a single. The video and the music and the riders are often still watched on the internet!

I write this at a time of year when the Tour de France is in mind, as with 1994 being the year Sean Yates pulled on his Yellow jersey after a Stage in Britain. This was a year equally memorable and special for David Duffield: elected Mr. Pickwick, top man at the oldest cycling club in the world, The Pickwick Bicycle Club. This is where the good and the godly of bicycling take the mantle of male characters from Charles Dickens' novel Number One: The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club - aka Pickwick Papers. Club meetings see members wearing a straw boater, a striped tie, for some a distinctive Club blazer. Never shy about his dress styles, David's blazers were regularly outstandingly smart. He sat at the PCB table as Mr. Ayresleigh, his soubriquet: dapper, always ready and willing to relate and reminisce, his conversational tones kept other guests fully in the picture and utterly relaxed.



At Dave Rayner Fundraiser Dinner

By the sheer force of his enthusiasm for bicycling, David Duffield became a best-loved television cycling commentator, as for so many I found there was much more to Him than that: very much the complete bicycling friend, he would never try to two-wheel you, David was so knowledgeable, so sincere and so very loyal to his sport. Yet he was tough, too, very tough when riding. .

Amongst his many place-to-place records, David rode two End-to-End rides in record time. The first in 1957 when he defied tradition by riding from a top of Scotland start, to Lands End. This happened at about the time I was secretary of an Essex cycling club, avidly reading of his exploits quite without any inkling that a couple of decades later I'd be so lucky to be able to so happily share time with him. We've shared news and often between us taken counsel on what the bicycling world was doing with itself today. Like so many, from David I gained so much, so many prizes of helpful advice gifted to me by a man who became so much more than a Friend.

God bless Fella, the world of bicycling has had one hell of a lead out from your back wheel.

Peter Lumley, September 2016.

*Instead of a Letters Page in this issue, I have chosen to include here a letter from Tom Martin (aka Cedric Chicken) in memory of his friend David:*

"Sir,

It was a wonderful surprise to see David looking so well at the President's Luncheon last year, following a patch of poor health. We would always remind one another of the shenanigans of past years. The most memorable stories revolved around the Centenary Club weekend runs. Senior members of the bicycle industry looked on in a bemused fashion, remembering the days when they were equally badly behaved. Pinching David's saddle, with a 12mile ride back to base still ahead of him, would have created a serious humour failure in anyone else! His presence on the Milk Race was epic. The wider picture was his forte as a commentator. His sporting nature a source of everlasting fun. Drinking with David at the end of the day was always likely to cause trouble. When he introduced me to a Freddy Fudd Pucker I thought it a bit too strong. He said a Fanny Fudd Pucker was for girls, so I stuck it out, waking with a terrible hangover. Later that morning I was in hospital having written off my car whilst racing to the start line in York. And who was the first person to come and see me?

Of course it was David. He was such a fine friend.

Pickiwickian Greetings from Cedric"



## The 28th Charity 30 mile Cycle Ride Sunday 26th June for the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice.

There are two trophies to be won, the Wembley Road Club Shield and the Mary Smithson Cup. Last year's winner of The Wembley R.C. Shield were the Pickwick B.C. but this year they had to hand it over to their big rivals Huntswood Golf Club who with Anne Messer and Julia Portus who rode a tandem, and raised £ 1,667. Stuart Smith Huntswood Club Captain raised over £600, Trevor Willis raised £85.00 and Paul and Sue raised £45.00. Baillie Mac Something who raised £1,000 with support from the Pickwick B.C. retained The Mary Smithson Cup.



We had good weather for the ride with some sunshine and great support from fellow Pickwickians who rode Ron Gray, John Steed, Ron Norman, Denny Fletcher and John Morris. The ride started from The Plough at Winchmore Hill to Chalfont St, Giles, Chalfont St. Peter, Gerrards Cross, over the M.40 to Hedgerley, through Burnham Beeches on to Huntswood Golf Club for lunch on the terrace.



After lunch the riders went through the country lanes to Beaconsfield to The Greyhound for some refreshments. Leaving the pub the ride continued through Beaconsfield back up to Winchmore Hill to finish at The Plough. After the ride riders and helpers came back to 'Wildhatch' where Ron Gray showed off his barbecue skills cooking sausages and chicken and Diana providing curries and pasta. A very successful day with a lot of money raised to help complete a Children's Hospice with space for the parents for the most difficult time one could ever imagine. The Hospice will be

finished in early Summer 2017.

I have visited the site in Maidenhead and happy to report on progress for a hospice started by Alexander's parents who have made it their life's work to complete the hospice in memory of their son.

Well done Pickwickians and of course Huntswood Golf Club.

Baillie Mac Something



## The 2017 Benson VC Cycle Day.....by Mr Dumkins

Sunday July 3rd saw another fine day for the Benson Veteran Cycle Club annual rally. Around 180 wonderful bicycles, some ridden by their owners in period costume, cycled around the Oxfordshire countryside visiting various watering holes en route. The first stop is provided free of charge by a local resident who opens his gardens for the participants to stop for refreshments, including a very fine local real ale (yes provided free of charge!).



The ride continued onto The Lamb at Chalgrove for lunch and a fortifying pint before returning back to Benson to collect the commemorative horse brass memento. Riding on the day for The Pickwick Bicycle Club were Baillie Mac Something (retired injured), Mr. Brooks, Alfred Jingle & Mr. Watty, a lower than usual turnout for this event.

A delicious picnic provided by Rosemary and Diane made for a great lunch at The Lamb accompanied by the sounds from the local brass band. The only down point was the very poor service from the bar staff, taking around 30mins to get a round in! From here it was mainly a downhill run back into Benson and after collecting the Horse Brasses we headed home.



This really is a great event and it would be great to see more members turn up to ride in the event (we have two club veteran cycles that members can use) or why not turn up and support your fellow members like I did this year! The event always happens on the first Sunday in July so please put SUNDAY JULY 2nd 2017 in your diary.

Mr. Dumkins

{aka Patrick (Paddy) Green}

## Mr Pickwick goes to France .....2016

Eleven members and guests came on the trip this year, with the main party leaving St Pancras on the Eurostar to Lille, then on the TGV to Lyon, arriving on Bastille Day. Jackson and Jackie, Mr. Dumkins and Sue, Baillie Mac Something and Diana with guests Brian and Pam Tadman checked into the hotel before adjourning to an excellent restaurant called 'Alex' for dinner. The owner/chef made us very welcome and the dinner was superb and a true Pickwickian evening.



We rose early the next day to hear the dreadful news of events in Nice, so a subdued party had breakfast and then travelled by car to see the Individual Time Trial in the Ardeche Gorge. One of our guests, Keith Daniels who was joining us for the day had already done a rec. and found a super Auberge that had all we needed for a good view of the course, with a television, bar food, and shady seating, in the village of Saint Remeze. It was a marvellous day's racing with Chris Froome defending his overall lead with a second place finish. We then returned to our cars to drive back to Lyon through the most beautiful countryside. That evening we dined at a restaurant recommended by the hotel receptionist, where we once again had an excellent meal accompanied by local wines.

The next morning we caught the 0900hrs TGV back to Paris, had a light lunch, and then took the Metro to Montmartre and visited the Sacre Coeur. That evening we enjoyed a good dinner in a restaurant by the Place De Bastille near our hotel. The following day we again used the Metro to the Eiffel Tower to catch a bateau for a trip along the Seine. The weather was glorious and it was a perfect way to see Paris.



After another lunch, this time at Le Marboef, just off the Champs Elysses, and then we retired to a bar to watch Le Tour and see Chris Froome chase the attacks over Le Grand Colombier.

It was then time for the party to take another Metro ride, to the Gare du Nord, in order to catch the Eurostar back to London. But before we departed we were able to watch the finish of the Tour stage in a station bar! Arriving at St Pancras the party split up to go their separate ways after a hard but enjoyable trip, with good racing, good eating, and had a few beers and glasses of wine...better not jump on the scales just yet! A truly traditional Mr. Pickwick goes to France.

.....Baillie Mac Something

Mr. Dumkins also contributed a few words about the trip.....

Following a straight forward journey to Lyon, and having found the hotel, we adjourned to 'Alex' of a gourmet dinner, although I'm not sure that 40euro brandies were such a good idea! Our base in Saint Remeze was an excellent choice to watch the Individual Time Trial, and much food and beer were imbibed whilst the riders came past at about 2-3 minutes -very fast. One of our party had an inflatable seat and fell asleep, so we're not sure how many of the nearly 200 riders he actually saw pass by.

After such an enthralling day we returned to Lyon for dinner for retiring for the evening. (What again? Ed). Next morning it was back to Paris, and some went sightseeing and some took the easier choice of repairing to a bar to watch the Tour and have a drink or trois. More sightseeing the next morning before returning home on Eurostar.

Many thanks to Baillie Mac Something and Diana for their usual meticulous planning, I'm already looking forward to 2017. This is a great trip and truly recommended with excellent company, good food & wine, and the small matter of watching the Tour de France. ....Mr. Dumkins



We have an interesting story here told by one of our club members. Much too modest to blow his own trumpet, so I will do it for him- this story is well worth the read:

**Mr. Smithie talks about:**

### **The 1956 West Berlin Vier Tag (4-day International)**

Way back in what seems the distant past (1956 actually), the BLRC were invited to send a British team to this West Berlin event. The team selection consisted of Brian Coombs (Bournemouth), Mike Dowling (Chichester), Fred Carrol (Manchester) and Gino Goddard (Kenton), and was managed by the renowned (The Late) Bob Thom (a former Pickwickian as The Suffolk Bantam). They had all competed against each other in events such as the Amateur Circuit of Britain, but this was the first time they were together as a team representing their country.

Without detailing the actual racing, the event consisted of 4 road stages around a still post war ravaged Berlin, plus a time trial before the second day stage. The British team was competing against teams from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Holland, Sweden and 'West' Germany, including such names as Peace Race winner Elof Dalgaard, Joss Hoevenarrs -later TDF Yellow Jersey and Giro Pink Jersey holder. Math van de Burgh- 3<sup>rd</sup> in the World Championship; Frank Rasmussen- winner of the Tour of Egypt; and Edi Ziegler - 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Olympic Road Race.

Unfortunately, Mike Dowling crashed badly on the first stage & was hospitalised, but the remainder of the team upheld the honour of Great Britain, and all finished the 4-day event- with Brian Coombs the best placed rider, 19<sup>th</sup> on GC.

Although Brian Coombs has lost touch, and Bob Thom crossed that final finishing line a few years back, the friendship developed in Berlin lives on, with Mike & Fred joining Mr. Smithie at the Pickwick Garden Parties where we toast The Suffolk Bantam.

**Gino Goddard/Mr. Smithie**





## 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 the information by return.

### Solomon Pell - Mr. Weller Snr's attorney at the Insolvent Court

"Mr. Solomon Pell, one of this learned body, was a fat, flabby, pale man, in a surtout which looked green one minute, and brown the next, with a velvet collar of the same chameleon tints. His forehead was narrow, his face wide, his head large, and his nose all on one side, as if Nature, indignant with the propensities she observed in him in his birth, had given it an angry tweak which it had never recovered. Being short-necked and asthmatic, however, he respired principally through this feature; so, perhaps, what it wanted in ornament, it made up in usefulness. 'I'm sure to bring him through it,' said Mr. Pell. 'Are you, though?' replied the person to whom the assurance was pledged. 'Certain sure,' replied Pell; 'but if he'd gone to any irregular practitioner, mind you, I wouldn't have answered for the consequences.' 'Ah!' said the other, with open mouth. 'No, that I wouldn't,' said Mr. Pell; and he pursed up his lips, frowned, and shook his head mysteriously."

W. Biddlecombe	1873 to 1875	
Dr. Major Harold J Johnson MB, RAMC	1876 to 1919	President (1910)
A E Simpson	1943 to 1953	
J L Elson Rees	1956 to 1958	
Harry F Anderson	1964 to 1993	President (1975)
Don McKellow	1990 to present	

### Mr. Justice Starleigh - the Judge in Bardell v Pickwick

"Mr. Pickwick was on the point of inquiring, with great abhorrence of the man's cold-blooded villainy, how Mr. Serjeant Buzfuz, who was counsel for the opposite party, dared to presume to tell Mr. Serjeant Snubbin, who was counsel for him, that it was a fine morning, when he was interrupted by a general rising of the barristers, and a loud cry of 'Silence!' from the officers of the court. Looking round, he found that this was caused by the entrance of the judge. Mr. Justice Stareleigh (who sat in the absence of the Chief Justice, occasioned by indisposition) was a most particularly short man, and so fat,

that he seemed all face and waistcoat. He rolled in, upon two little turned legs, and having bobbed gravely to the Bar, who bobbed gravely to him, put his little legs underneath his table, and his little three-cornered hat upon it; and when Mr. Justice Stareleigh had done this, all you could see of him was two queer little eyes, one broad pink face, and somewhere about half of a big and very comical-looking wig."

R J Tatum	pre 1881	
E J Tatum	pre 1884	
Dr. Bertram Goddard	1904 to 1911	
Charles Wellington Reed	1913 to 1914	
John Kemp Starley	1914 to 1940	President (1931)
Hubert G Starley CBE	1944 to 1974	President (1953)
Ron G Gray	1985 to present	President (2000)

### **Richard Upwitch - Juryman**

"The judge had no sooner taken his seat, than the officer on the floor of the court called out 'Silence!' in a commanding tone, upon which another officer in the gallery cried 'Silence!' in an angry manner, whereupon three or four more ushers shouted 'Silence!' in a voice of indignant remonstrance. This being done, a gentleman in black, who sat below the judge, proceeded to call over the names of the jury; and after a great deal of bawling, it was discovered that only ten special jurymen were present. Upon this, Mr. Serjeant Buzfuz prayed a TALES; the gentleman in black then proceeded to press into the special jury, two of the common jurymen; and a greengrocer and a chemist were caught directly. 'Answer to your names, gentlemen, that you may be sworn,' said the gentleman in black. 'Richard Upwitch.' "

J Horn	1878 to 1901	
Eric E Anderson	1926 to 1937	
R L Jones	1938 to 1943	
John Grey	1953 to 1958	
Eric Charles Tyler	1958 to 2003	President (1973)
Matthew Bullen	2006 to 2011	
Charles Tyler	2012 to present	

### **Mr. Watty - a bankrupt client of Mr. Perker**

"Don't go away, Mr. Pickwick,' said Lowten, 'I've got a letter for you.' The stranger, seeming to hesitate, once more looked towards the ground, and the clerk winked slyly at Mr. Pickwick, as if to intimate that some exquisite piece of humour was going forward, though what it was Mr. Pickwick could not for the life of him divine.

'Step in, Mr. Pickwick,' said Lowten. 'Well, will you leave a message, Mr. Watty, or will you call again?' 'Ask him to be so kind as to leave out word what has been done in my business,' said the man; 'for God's sake don't neglect it, Mr. Lowten.' 'No, no; I won't forget it,' replied the clerk. 'Walk in, Mr. Pickwick. Good-morning, Mr. Watty; it's a fine day for walking, isn't it?' Seeing that the stranger still lingered, he beckoned Sam Weller to follow his master in, and shut the door in his face."

Anthony J Smith	pre 1881 to 1921	President (1918)
Edwin Campbell	1924 to 1936	
L J Mansfield	1938 to 1965	
Alexander S Newall	1965 to 2006	
Stuart Mason-Elliott	2005 to present	

### **The Chancery prisoner -**

"'There's a capital room up in the coffee-room flight, that belongs to a Chancery prisoner,' said Mr. Roker. 'It'll stand you in a pound a week. I suppose you don't mind that?' 'Not at all,' said Mr. Pickwick. 'Just step there with me,' said Roker, taking up his hat with great alacrity; 'the matter's settled in five minutes. Lord! Why didn't you say at first that you was willing to come down handsome?' The matter was soon arranged, as the turnkey had foretold. The Chancery prisoner had been there long enough to have lost his friends, fortune, home, and happiness, and to have acquired the right of having a room to himself. As he laboured, however, under the inconvenience of often wanting a morsel of bread, he eagerly listened to Mr. Pickwick's proposal to rent the apartment, and readily covenanted and agreed to yield him up the sole and undisturbed possession thereof, in consideration of the weekly payment of twenty shillings; from which fund he furthermore contracted to pay out any person or persons that might be chummed upon it.

As they struck the bargain, Mr. Pickwick surveyed him with a painful interest. He was a tall, gaunt, cadaverous man, in an old greatcoat and slippers, with sunken cheeks, and a restless, eager eye. His lips were bloodless, and his bones sharp and thin. God help him! The iron teeth of confinement and privation had been slowly filing him down for twenty years."

H Bolsover	1956 to 1968
R Forsyth	1968 to 1977
E A Harris	1978 to 1993
John R Taylor	1994 to 2001
Peter Hargroves	2006 to present

*I've received a letter from a former Club member about a former (now deceased) Club member - **The Late Mr. Bardell Dec 1970-July 2009**. It made for interesting reading so I have included it here.*



The Late Mr. Bardell, (aka Alan Mepham), wasn't just a cyclist, but indeed a man extraordinaire. Single and bloody minded, he was passionate about cycling, cyclists and nature. Never happier than when he was up the road and over the hills on his Holdsworth, later a Roy Thame (aka Don Bolaro Fizgig). His cycling, rudely interrupted by hostilities between 1939 - 1948, began with his father's encouragement when old enough to balance on two wheels. It continued until a few months before his death in 1990, aged 86. Countless '000s of miles, countless friends and an encyclopedic knowledge of off-road routes, tracks, lanes and by-ways. Convivial and generous in both material ways and of his time, but always modest and unassuming. A great storyteller, his 'Tales from the 8th

Army' would make libertarians spin in their graves. 'It's a poor soldier who can't stand his comrades breath' he would murmur as he stood out of his saddle, stamped on his pedals, f..ted and shot off up a 1 in 6, leaving the rest of us in the Ixion Road Club in his wake. He was a patriotic and knowledgeable countryman through and through; a true gentleman and a great bloke. The Master.

A member of 'The Pickwick' for 39 years, regularly attending the Club luncheons, especially the December Garden Party every year; He wore the racing vest of the National Clarion; he was a member of The Pedal Club and also the Rough Stuff Fellowship. He served the latter as Route Librarian for 36 years, holding the offices of Chairman for 24 years and President for 6 years. In between his cycling responsibilities, not that he saw them as such; he enjoyed the fresh air, the beautiful English countryside and the camaraderie of like-minded souls. He was the most unlikely tax gatherer ever employed by the Commissioners of the Board of Inland Revenue.

Everyone who knew him, who had the honour, nay pleasure, of riding with him, regarded with awe his eating capacity. It was supra-international class. On two occasions in the Connaught Rooms when there was an empty seat at the table, he obliged the chef by eating both his and the absent member's dinner without the waiter being aware. On returning home, he would demolish a four course dinner accompanied by 4 or 5 fellow Pickwickians,

## The Late Mr. Bardell story cont'd.....

When riding a Bath Road '50' and not feeling up to the mark he allegedly stopped at a convenient 'greasy spoon', had steak & kidney pie, cabbage, mash and peas, jam roly-poly and a cup of tea, eaten at warp speed, and still finished with a personal best time.

It's unlikely we shall never see his like again. He was my friend for over 60 years; proposed me as a member (Lt. Tappleton, Chapter 2, 1975-1990) and with whom I rode for many of them, including a stupendous for me, 175 mile test ride to see if I was up to accompanying him on a Tour of Scotland. Apparently I was, and we made Carter Bar in 3 days from London.

Former Lt Tappleton/T E Burke

*Do you know someone currently in the PBC, or past member whose exploits are worthy of a mention? If so, send me your/their story and we can include it in a future issue.*

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## **It is with sadness that I have to report the passing of another Club member.**

We have been informed of the death of The Late Mr. Clarke (Jules Renard) in March of this year, by his brother-in-law 'Slurk', who informed Buzfuz " Sadly my brother-in-law passed away peacefully this evening following a long battle with cancer."

Club condolences were passed on by Buzfuz to the family.



## March 2016 Caption Competition Winner!



A raft of entries this time around, so thank you. After much deliberation it was decided that the winning entry was from **Hunt**"

**"Remember the last time you had a beer? You lost the bet and ended up riding across France on a bone-shaker"**

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

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## October 2016 Caption Competition

So here's another chance to win a prize for the best caption entered by a Club member. Entries (max two per member) in writing or by email to the editor by the end of January 2017.



## The Travels of Frank Simmery.....

Our illustrious member Frank Simmery has been off on his travels again, this time to Sicily. He very kindly sent some pictures and a short explanation of the trip

Hello Winkle Snr,

As requested here is a collection of photos from which you can choose.

This trip was wonderful and one of the best I ever had; fantastic landscape, friendly people, and surprisingly high standard of B&Bs and hotels. There were an enormous number of thrilling sightseeing opportunities from past periods such as Greek, Roman, and Norman. There used to be a Mafia problem and there's still a very high rate of unemployment but I didn't notice anything negative at all.





My route was cycling around the island starting and finishing in Santa Lucia (near Milazzo) first travelling in a westerly direction, 17 cycling days, and total of 900km=559miles. My suggestion for any followers is to do this trip in early spring, enjoy lots of hills and use the *Lonely Planet* guide book. Sincerely Helmut

Thank you Helmut for the wonderful pictures of your trip.... Ed.

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## REMINDER

The Hampton Court Ride organised by Pruffle may have already happened by the time you read this, but if not, it's on Thursday 13th October so contact him as soon as possible to participate in the ride or just for lunch.

Tel: 07850 102365 or email: [jaheg@sky.com](mailto:jaheg@sky.com)

## **The All Black Golden Sunbeam**



The three-speed Golden Sunbeam was produced by John Marston's firm, in Wolverhampton, which had grown out of the Wolverhampton tinplate industry.

The cycle was available in an all-black finish, from 1913, with the frame lining done in real gold leaf. The chain case, with its 'Little Oil Bath', was an especially distinctive feature. A famous, pre-War customer was the composer, Sir Edward Elgar, who owned more than one Sunbeam.

The basic design stayed in production for the following fifty years; the military version of the cycle, with clips for a rifle to be slung, had the oil bath and gears removed to reduce the possibility of a malfunction. Large quantities, finished in green, were made for the French army, with smaller numbers, mainly in black or khaki, for the British.

(Picture from the Whitgift School Croydon excellent WW1 exhibition)