

The Pickwick Magazine

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

Founded in 1870



"Meanwhile Sam, having been formally introduced.....as the offspring of Mr Weller, of the Belle Savage, was treated with marked distinction....," etc

Still Celebrating our 150th Anniversary

Editor: Mr Winkle Snr

Volume 18 No.2 October 2021

Editorial contribution.....

Well, what can one say? The pandemic continues to affect each & every one of us in different ways, some more than others and as I scribble my way through this issue, I hope once again, that you and your families have continued to survive these difficult times.

So, another curious year is slipping away, and what have we got to look back on? By the time you receive this issue, the Hampton Court Ride will have taken place at no less a place than the Thames Yacht Club, but sadly all of our deferred, planned other celebratory events have been cancelled yet again, and we can but only hope now that our December Garden Party will still be possible in some format or other. I find it difficult to believe that the last gathering of our Club was the December 2019 Garden Party when I handed over the Presidential role to Mr Watty. Who was to know then that we would not reconvene for another two years. Our erstwhile President, therefore shares the rare privilege of holding the role for two years with Sir Antonio Brady back in 1877-1880! (see March '21 issue)

The one Club highlight of the year so far however, was the "Virtual President's Dinner" or as you will see, the "Zoom Pie Dinner"! A masterpiece of organisation and an exceptional evenings entertainment.

On a general note, we should be very proud of the Team GB cyclists at the Tokyo Olympics & Paralympics. At a time when the world was standing still and not knowing how the pandemic would affect this great sporting event, the cyclists shone through as always. Impossible to name all of them but Laura & Jason Kenny, and Dame Sarah Storey justify special mention as the greatest cycling Olympians of all time.

Well, here's hoping that we can all meet up again in December, and once again enjoy the good fellowship and conviviality of fellow members. In the meantime I wish you well, and stay safe until 'we meet again'.

.....Editor



Closing Date for the March 2022 issue will be [31st January 2022](#)

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



An Autumn Review by Sgt Buzfuz

email:sdownham@vailwilliams.com

As we slowly come out of lockdown I stand back and look at what we have missed as a club. The pandemic hit us at the worst time and major celebration events had to be cancelled or rearranged. Further details will be included elsewhere in this magazine.

One question I am regularly asked, and part of the club that has been delayed, is what is the length of the waiting list and when will my nominee be introduced. Members will be aware that on introduction new members are allocated an available soubriquet. These become available either when members resign for various reasons, unfortunately pass away or move to retired status when their soubriquet becomes available for re-allocation.

Your committee have recently agreed a further 7 or 8 names that will be allocated in due course. The last invitation for nomination of prospective members produced over 40 names all of whom were entered into a random draw to produce the working list. There were three or four names on the old list and they together with the first names on the new list have been introduced as have a further 6 introduced during the supper meeting earlier this year. All being well it is proposed to introduce a further 6 in December at the Garden Party. There are still some 34 prospective members on the waiting list and there are currently, with the new added names, 20 available sobriquets and we will try to introduce as many as possible as soon as possible but I hope members will agree that we must try to include a new member introduction at each luncheon, so I anticipate that the number of new member introductions will need to be closely monitored over the next few luncheons

Members are reminded that retired membership is available subject to certain conditions enabling members to still take part in club activities without the need of regular attendance and this frees up soubriquets for prospective new members. I will always be happy to discuss this class of membership with anyone.

Best Wishes to you all, keep safe and I hope to see you all at the Garden Party in December, if not before.

Buzfuz

Our Intrepid President Mr Pickwick reports from Le Continent

Gentlemen, fellow members of our most august Club,

As I near the end of my honoured position as your Club President, for the last 2 years we have all been necessarily restricted by this wretched pandemic which has stopped us meeting since our Garden Party in December 2019! This has been so frustrating for us all, but with the wonders of our scientists, the vaccination program means that there is now light at the end of the tunnel!

We have been forced to delay our 150th Anniversary Celebration Dinner again this year, but it is now firmly in the diary for the evening of Friday 25th February 2022 at Saddlers Hall in the City of London. Applications for tickets will be with you soon, and we sincerely hope that you all will make the effort to attend to celebrate your club's significant achievement of 150 years activities. While it would be unwise to fill the Grand Connaught Rooms with 550 members and guests, we *will* be holding our Garden Party on 2nd December 2021, and look forward to being together once again for good food and fellowship.

Thank you to all members who attended our Virtual President's Dinner on 14th May this year. From the many messages we received after the event, it would suggest that, with the help of all involved, we managed to 'pull it off'! Hopefully it will be an unique event in our Club's history!



With travel restrictions finally eased, I have managed to get to France and was spotted cycling my Clement 1888 Penny Farthing 25 miles around Lake Annecy. I call it my smile machine, as that day I certainly raised 1000+ smiles from those who saw me!

Thank you for entrusting me as your President for the last two years, and I look forward to supporting our Deputy President, Hunt during 2022.

Yours as ever,

Samuel Pickwick / Stuart Mason-Elliott



Your Captain has some News and Words of Instruction.....

Dear Fellow Pickwickians, I further write to you when we have again had a quiet summer due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. As you were aware we should have had the Annual Bike Ride & Golf Day, and our Celebratory Black-Tie Dinner but alas, all were postponed not cancelled!

However firstly I would like to thank our President, Samuel Pickwick for all the hard work he put in to ensure our Zoom Dinner on Friday 14th May was a huge success. It was a brilliant evening and enjoyed by all attending and one that all those participating will remember for years to come.

Our next major event will now hopefully be the annual Christmas Garden Party planned to take place on Thursday 2nd December. At the time of writing, we do not know how many people we can have in attendance, and it is with regret that I must advise it is unlikely to be our normal 500+. I therefore ask members to respond quickly when you receive your invitation, to save disappointment! And just a gentle reminder that all members and guests, must wear a jacket and tie and be seated by 1pm sharp, so as to allow for the event to run smoothly for the enjoyment of all.

Just to confirm the Black-Tie Dinner has now been moved to February 25th at Saddlers Hall. This will still be a special and unique occasion to finalise out celebration of our Club's 150th Birthday. We need everyone's support and whilst I know many of the members have already bought tickets, to those that have not, when the application form comes out in early December, please buy your tickets. We need 150 people to make it viable and memorable, and it will be an occasion not to be missed!

Pickwickian greetings to you all and stay safe.

Dr Payne

Club Captain

Zoom Pie Dinner!

Or in other words, the President's Virtual Dinner.

It all began during a virtual committee meeting, when your officers were looking for a glimmer of hope that the Club could meet again in spite of the pandemic. With the understanding that the only real option was to continue waiting until such times as the Covid restrictions were relaxed, a light bulb moment occurred, and the suggestion of a pie & pint was mooted, but 'on-line,' or in the new parlance — a Zoom dinner, to be held on Friday 14th May. As close date wise to what would have been the usual Spring Luncheon.



Once the idea had crystallised, been proposed to members and confirmed as a firm date, wheels were set in motion. With the usual organisational skills of a few, a source of quality pies was soon established, and a meal package was drafted to include said pie, a suggested dinner menu, a bottle of Pickwick beer, a miniature of port, and the icing on the cake.... a Clay Pipe & Shag tobacco no less, duly arrived in a well packed box.

On the due date the gathering convened, and it was fascinating to see faces appearing on the zoom screen, with all the different background scenes and noises. I have to say it was a hectic affair, trying to scroll from one screen to another, as we (Mrs Winkle & yours truly), to see who was present and who wasn't. For my part we had four screens to sweep across and enjoy other member's dinner party, and frivolity.

Our President, Mr Pickwick opened the occasion with words of welcome to what must be one of the most unusual Pickwickian gatherings in our history, and then it was glasses raised to toast the start of the meal. Within the carefully prepared menu that had accompanied the 'food parcel', it detailed suggestions for starters and desserts either side of " The Pie". What the parcel did not contain, was someone to prepare it! Whilst I'm sure that many members have good culinary skills in these modern times, for sure there are some who don't. The result was that it was quite noticeable that many wives/partners frequently disappeared to prepare or serve each course.



Mr President live on Zoom

Of course in some cases, the well trained chefs from our midst were seen to carry out the serving role, but I think a special vote of thanks should be given to our respective 'other halves' for their contribution to the enjoyable food. There were varying attempts to x-toast, and some jovial comments bouncing around throughout the dinner, with suitable ripostes from some quarters.



Revival of the Pipe

At a suitable moment, your President introduced Hon Sec, Sgt Buzfuz, and then announced that he was muting the rest of us. (I'm sure your Captain wished this could be done at the Connaught Rooms when speakers are on their feet!) Buzfuz proceeded to induct new members into our most august Club. Since it had not been possible to do this at any earlier date, a total of six new members were presented to the gathered members in the usual manner, with details of where they could be found within Pickwick Papers, duly given their soubriquets, and reminded of their responsibilities as members.



One of many Zoom screens of members enjoying this unusual Pickwickian gathering



A worldwide screen including Club member Helmut Stibal in Germany, and guests Gary Sanderson & wife in the USA

Having been instructed by our Captain in good Pickwickian tradition "Gentlemen, you must smoke" some brave souls lit their clay pipes, and plenty of coughing & spluttering could be heard across the ether. It was then time for our entertainment, as if we hadn't had enough already, with comedian Hal Cruttenden, star of Eastenders & Mock the Week, to name just two TV shows in which he has appeared. A difficult task for anybody to interact with the audience when it's by Zoom, but he kept us entertained with life observations and then 'targeting' Mr Dumkins (Paddy Green) & partner, with such hilarity that you forgot that this was 'fake' live. Paddy played his part very well, entering into the frivolity of being on the receiving end of Hal's humour. He concluded with the toast to the "Immortal memory of..." A thoroughly entertaining guest - we should ask him to return at a future luncheon for a truly live performance.

And so like all good things, our evening came to an end, and thanks must go to our President & his team for their extraordinary organisation, and we look forward to all meeting for real in December at the Annual Garden Party.



Hal Cruttenden

New members.....

As mentioned in the Zoom Dinner report, Buzfuz did his usual investiture of those new members who had been waiting longer than the norm' due to there having been no opportunities to do so since the Garden Party of 2019. We therefore welcome them to our Club, and hope that they will soon be able to enjoy the fellowship and activities that membership offers once again.

Benjamin - Ken Jackson

Jack - Christopher Mockford

The Bagman - Michael Baker

Mr Warren - Nigel Redmile

Henry - Martin Farrow

Slumintowkins - Dominic Langan

Of course, as per the usual expectations, having been presented with their respective soubriquets, they will be expected to appear at all future Club events (yes, there will be future events!) suitably attired in Club uniform, on time and in control of their guests. (see the Captain's comments).

Whilst not a requisite of membership, said new members might quite enjoy reading the copy of Pickwick Papers they have been given, and finding out what part their namesake(s) played in the adventures of Mr Pickwick and his friends.

We raise our hats to the new Members!



Life & Times of Joseph Smiggers Esq P.V.P.M.P.C

Following on from the last issue, with the cycling history of Mr Justice Stareleigh, my latest candidate is our illustrious soubriquet historian, Joseph Smiggers /Steve Bullen. Another fascinating story, and another virtual lunch to arrange!

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

My cycling started when I was still in nappies! My dad built a sidecar for me to attach to their tandem. He replaced this five years later with a double sidecar when my sister came along, but very soon after that cycling ended as the motor car became the preferred mode of transport.



Dad Roy with Steve's Side-car

When did you start riding seriously, — did you ride much before you joined a club and what sort of distances did you do?

My cycling was very cheap and functional! I'd do-up old steel frames and tow my canoe from Birmingham to Stratford-upon-Avon. I would envy the likes of the Solihull CC passing me at speed, but never imagined that I would ever cycle in that way, or to be able to afford such a bike. At 17, cycling to work became the norm. Then these rides became extended as I started courting!

What sort of bike did you have by then?

When I married, I moved to West Bromwich and bought my first proper bike, a Carlton 15-speed (£59.55) from Major Nichols' shop, followed by a Viscount Aerospace 10-speed (£84.95).

My engineering career then took off and the bike was replaced by company cars and international flights. Whilst travelling I was inspired by the Crane cousins cycling across the Himalayas on "mountain bikes". This led me to purchase a Muddy Fox Courier (£315.95) which gave me the freedom to come back from busy trips and get lost on the bridleways of the North Cotswolds.

Although my wife Nina was a nervous cyclist, she thoroughly enjoyed being on the back of our American "Mission" off-road tandem and our Claud Butler tandem.

Eventually I replaced my Muddy Fox with a Giant XTC2. This led me to try to find a compromise between on and off road tyres that didn't work out so I treated myself to my first carbon bike, the Cannondale Synapse. A wonderful bike that served me very well until I purchased my latest carbon, an Orbea Avant which was produced in Pedal Club colours.



Steve & Nina

Did you join a touring club or straight into a racing club and if so which one?

I was an independent rider, but would regularly see the impressive Evesham Wheelers out on the open road. One day I responded to their invitation to do a 50 in 4. This became my first club after clicking with a new bunch of friends,

As it was a mixed racing/touring club, where did you go? UK or Le Continent?

The leading force of Evesham Wheelers was Neville Channin, well known across the sport. Unfortunately, he passed away shortly before I joined the Club. He had also spoken at the Pedal Club on an occasion that I couldn't attend.

I always enjoyed multi-day riding including CTC, St David's Head to Lowestoft, Exeter and IoW to Whitstable, and sections of the JOGLE supporting friends, finally completing 980 miles in 9 days with the Deloitte Ride Across Britain in 2018.

Was it mainly touring & Sportifs & what did you get up to?

Like so many people I was inspired by the 2012 London Olympics and became a "Sport Maker" to take sport into the heart of our communities. I researched access to sports from my village and then set up a website "SportHoneybourne" which gave Honeybourne-centric access to 63 different sports. This led to me being presented with the Steve Redgrave award for "Carrying the London 2012 flame forward".

And of course then there was Bradley Wiggins TdeF win which caused me to tackle the lack of cycling in Honeybourne because it was seen as dangerous with so many buses, trucks and cars passing through. I set up a series of rides that provided for young family non-cyclists to sportif wannabees, with rides every Saturday. Then started the challenge of leading all these rides in one day near the longest day, with me completing 100 miles and everyone meeting at the Fleece Inn for a well earned refreshments. This group is known as H-BUG (Honeybourne Bicycle Users Group). I then unilaterally declared that Honeybourne was the cycling hub for the three counties of Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, and put up signs welcoming cyclists to the village. The reason being that the more that cyclists passed through our village, the safer cycling would become for our residents. Today we have a steady stream of cyclists passing through every day.



H-Bug Sign

You rode Ride London in 2014 in what was probably the worst ever weather for the event, and you've climbed Mont Ventoux Which was harder?

I was really disappointed with that Ride London event because I had trained specifically for the much vaunted hills. However, I have been back and completed the full Surrey 100 in 2018 and 2019.

In 2016 I decided to ride the family day with my wife on the Mission tandem. It was a memorable day but a complete nightmare because Nina was in the advanced stages of dementia. The noise was incredible and with cyclists packed shoulder-to-shoulder there was no escape route for me with Nina constantly threatening to jump off and run away. It was hell, but in retrospect I'm glad I did it – our last memory of riding together.

Mont Ventoux was a completely different occasion, but obviously a much tougher challenge than the Surrey 100. My reason for doing it was to try to clear my head as Nina had gone into care and I needed a really tough challenge to refocus. I had made contact with Tom Simpson's daughter and bought the Simpson's kit to join her 50th anniversary ride up Mont Ventoux with an array of luminaries including Bradley Wiggins. Keith Penfold and

Steve Wright decided that they would like to ride this event with me. I arrived a day early and so decided to look around and ended up completing the climb from the west. Next day was the great gathering of black & white Simpson jerseys and we set off from Bedouin up to the top of the mountain, and then back down to a ceremony at the recently renovated Tom Simpson memorial where I was interviewed by Ray Pascoe. The following day, with everybody heading home, I decided to look at the climb from the east. Stopping for a coffee in Salt before the start of the climb, a well dressed couple asked if one cyclist would like to join another for coffee. This was Colin Lewis, Tom Simpson's super domestique, a really nice man – it really doesn't get better than that. So three climbs up Mont Ventoux, but not for me the ultimate challenge of three ascents in the same day.



Peugeot colours at the summit of Ventoux

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

After being a regular guest of my good friend Chris Tyler (Mr Staple) I was elected to membership of The Pickwick Bicycle Club in 1980 with the support of two very well respected members Don Lyford (Tracy Tupman) and Eric Tyler (Richard Upwitch), through my component manufacturing experience with Raleigh Industries , etc.

I was introduced at the Pedal Club by Aidan Hegarty and became a country member in 2008, enjoying the presidency in 2017.

Do you have any other cycling or Dickensian connections?

Like many others, I found Cedric Dickens to be wonderful company, and very supportive of my work to qualify all the soubriquets we had inherited in the Club. He was extremely generous with compliments including a postcard which included “It was worth coming 120 miles from Somerset just to hear you”, about my speech to our guests.

You became President of the Pickwick in 1999, what are your early memories of the Pickwick BC, and the guest speakers during your year of office?

Henry Cooper was the speaker for Mr Staple's presidency and I was designated his 'minder' – just a truly wonderful experience.

You're the Club Soubriquet historian and I believe, the Club archivist-when did you take on these roles?

I'm not sure ! Stuff happens ! It probably started when I decided to read the Pickwick Papers on a Turkish coastal cruise, having not read the book since childhood. All of a sudden I know most of these characters personally so I created an Excel spread sheet and started to research and assemble tiny snippets of information that have developed in to a substantial reference document for the Club.

What are your favourite memories of the Pickwick BC?

I'm lucky enough to have a lot of really happy memories of friends, events and speakers over the many years, but one of my favourite is really quite recent when the Club gathered in Harrogate for the Tour de France, with the highlight being our current President Stuart Mason-Elliott managing to find me and others in the back of a pub behind Bettys Café Tea Rooms using What3Words. He arrived up the stairs with his wonderfully heavy, immaculate boneshaker.

And finally, you've met many interesting people within cycling – care to name some and why you remember them particularly?

I consider myself extremely lucky to have become the secretary of the Golden Books of Cycling that honours individuals who have made solid contributions to cycling. This has enabled me to meet Glenn Longland (300 miles in 12 hours), Keith Butler, Monty Young (Condor Cycles), Phil Liggett MBE (Voice of Cycling), Ron Webb (Velodrome builder), Sir Bradley Wiggins, Sir Chris Hoy, John Barclay, Joanna Simpson (daughter of Tom Simpson), Mike Broadwith (fastest LEJOG), Julie Harrington (CEO BC), Peter King CBE, Alf Engers, Neil Campbell, Tony Doyle and also, as past President of the Pedal Club to have invited interesting guests.

Steve it's been a pleasure listening to your life in cycling, is there anything you want to add as a message to the new members of the Pickwick BC?

You are now part of a very well respected organisation that blends cycling with Dickens. You are the future of the Club, and the initiatives you undertake in support of the Club, cycling and/or Dickens will help to reinforce the strong basis of our beloved organisation. I was in awe of the Club's reputation when I came as a guest in 1978, and am still so after 43 years.

ALL Best Wishes, Steve Bullen (Joseph Smiggers)

Now to think who to put in the spotlight for the March 2022 magazine.....Editor

Two Museums.....

Dickens Museum

Buzfuz recently received a communique from our friend Dr Cindy Sughrue at the museum to advise that they are in possession of a series of fifteen(15) limited edition prints of scenes from Pickwick Papers, by the French illustrator Henry Lemarie (1911 - 1991) - considered to be one of France's most celebrated miniaturists. There are four (4) sets of these amazing scenes, which are available for sale if anyone in the Club is interested in acquiring a set.

Contact details are: www.dickensmuseum.com alternatively you can contact the museum directly on 020 7405 2127

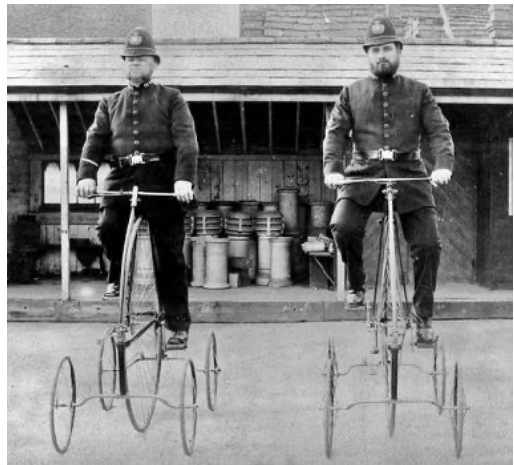
Horsham Museum West Sussex - Cycling Madness

You may ask why is there mention of a museum in Sussex? Well, they are interested in bicycles, and some very unusual ones at that; an explanation....

"The museum became aware of the nation currently being gripped by cycling, with the sport given a new boost by government funding, so we thought we would look back to 160 years ago when the country was wrapped up in a similar cycling fever. The relics of that passion, creativity and daring are on display in our museum. In the heart of ancient Sussex is one of the country's best displays of sheer enthusiasm and practical inventiveness to combat the problems of cycling; from bumpy roads, lack of chains, carrying bulky parcels, to extra-long and short legs, not to mention the bulky woollen clothing (there was no Lycra back then). No matter what the problem, Victorian inventors tried to solve them. Their ingenious efforts make a fascinating display for 21st century cycling and non-cycling visitors.

So how do you solve a problem of bumpy roads with no tarmac? Simple, you put a row of springs around the wheel! How do you carry bulky goods on your bike with ease? If you are Horsham born architect and inventor Edward Burstow, you create an iconic Horsham bike, the Pentacycle.

Known also as the Hen & Chickens, it was a 5-wheel bike (one large wheel and four outriders) bedecked with large baskets. A delight for local postal workers and the public, the Pentacycle was unfortunately a design dead end.



The Pentacycle plus the men in blue

(text & pic courtesy of the museum)

Sadly the museum has been closed due to the pandemic but hopefully will soon be open again, and I will endeavour to find out what other strange cycles they have...Editor.

A Look Back at The Hampton Court Ride

Buzfuz recently sent me a booklet titled **Hampton Court Meets 1872-1883**, that was compiled by our sadly departed Pickwickian devotee, Keith Robins/Peter Magnus. In the introduction back in 2009, he wrote that having recently seen a film about the Myths & Facts surrounding the great Italian cyclist Gino Bartali, he began to study the Hampton Court Ride details as depicted in the First 25years History of the Pickwick Bicycle Club book. The following are just some of the interesting facts that emerged.

1875 - an invitation was received from the West Middlesex Bicycle Club to join them in a 'grand meet' at Hampton Court, but it happened that this clashed with a PBC club ride, so turned down the invitation. On the day in question (April 10th), the weather was extremely bad and only two riders met at Hampton Court Park Gates, neither wearing WMBC uniform. And it seems only two Pickwickians turned out for the Club run as well!

1876 - the second meet was arranged for May 6th, and favoured with glorious weather, and some 400-450 cyclists met at the Park Gates. A very formal affair since the captains of the clubs held a meeting at the Kings Arms Hotel to decided the order of the procession. The 'Pickwick' as the oldest Club was unanimously chosen to take the lead. Captain K. M. Yeoman started the circular ride by way of Hampton & Teddington before entering Bushey Park at the end, creating 'much admiration by their orderly and smart appearance as they passed along the avenue'. In terms of numbers, the London Bicycle Club topped the list with 72 riders followed by the Pickwick BC with 47.

1877 - a much larger affair, requiring more than four preliminary meetings to arrange meetings with the Commissioner of Police to ensure proper support for the riders was in place along the same route as in 1876; and with the Railway Companies to request additional brake accommodation be made available. And of course, where/when the buglers would pass signals down the line of procession. Thus on another glorious day - May 26th, an estimated 1500-2000 club riders took part in the procession, led once again by the Pickwick BC, with Captain K. M. Yeoman in command for the day. The Pickwick also had the most riders, mustering 69 machines in total. The event was watched by 'thousands' of spectators, and it was reported that the extra police, said to be 30, were deemed totally inadequate to cope with maintaining a clear path for the riders. Some unattached riders were also reported for acting in 'a spirit of insolent independence' and did much to upset the marshals who were trying to maintain an orderly procession. (Surely this would never be tolerated by Pruffle?)

An intriguing insight into this wonderful event by Peter Magnus, and there's more to follow in the March 2022 magazine.....Editor.



Who Were Your Early Namesakes? Researching Your Ancestors

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

Red-nosed Mr Stiggins - the deputy shepherd

"I suppose he's drivin' up to-day?" said Sam. 'He may be, or he may not,' replied Mrs. Weller, buttering the round of toast which the red-nosed man had just finished. 'I don't know, and, what's more, I don't care.--Ask a blessin', Mr. Stiggins.' The red-nosed man did as he was desired, and instantly commenced on the toast with fierce voracity. The appearance of the red-nosed man had induced Sam, at first sight, to more than half suspect that he was the deputy-shepherd of whom his estimable parent had spoken. The moment he saw him eat, all doubt on the subject was removed, and he perceived at once that if he purposed to take up his temporary quarters where he was, he must make his footing good without delay. He therefore commenced proceedings by putting his arm over the half-door of the bar, coolly unbolting it, and leisurely walking in."

Henry John Lawson	1870 to 1875	
H. Bradley	pre 1881	
Sydney Fortescue	1896 to 1914	Rev. Mr Stiggins
Frank A. Black	1924 to 1931	Hon. Sec 1927, The Rev. Mr Stiggins
R. F. Burton	1937 to 1941	
Commander Campbell	1944 to 1948	
Gerald Nutland Burgess	1950 to 1999	President, Major supplier of brakes to Raleigh, Rally driver
Trevor Bevan	2001 to present	

Brother Mordlin - member of the Brick Lane Branch

"Anthony Humm now moved that the assembly do regale itself with a song. With a view to their rational and moral enjoyment, Brother Mordlin had adapted the beautiful words of 'Who hasn't heard of a Jolly Young Waterman?' to the tune of the Old Hundredth, which he would request them to join him in singing (great applause). He might take that opportunity of expressing his firm persuasion that the late Mr. Dibdin, seeing the errors of his former life, had written that song to show the advantages of abstinence.

It was a temperance song (whirlwinds of cheers). The neatness of the young man's attire, the dexterity of his feathering, the enviable state of mind which enabled him in the beautiful words of the poet, to 'Row along, thinking of nothing at all,' all combined to prove that he must have been a water-drinker (cheers). Oh, what a state of virtuous jollity! (rapturous cheering). And what was the young man's reward? Let all young men present mark this: 'The maidens all flocked to his boat so readily.'"

E E Thorpe	1877 to 1901	Life Member
Jas. Coventon Moth	1918 to 1929	
H R Horden	1938 to 1942	
P P Arondel	1948 to 1960	
Jack Davis	1966 to 1991	President (1976)
H "Rob" E Farley	1992 to 2008	
Chris Saltrick	2014 to present	JOGLE on an Ordinary/Treasurer

Mr Snicks - the Life Office Secretary (at Mr Perker's dinner party)

"Mr. Perker had had a dinner-party that day, as was testified by the appearance of lights in the drawing-room windows, the sound of an improved grand piano, and an improvable cabinet voice issuing therefrom, and a rather overpowering smell of meat which pervaded the steps and entry. In fact, a couple of very good country agencies happening to come up to town, at the same time, an agreeable little party had been got together to meet them, comprising Mr. Snicks, the Life Office Secretary, Mr. Prosee, the eminent counsel, three solicitors, one commissioner of bankrupts, a special pleader from the Temple, a small-eyed peremptory young gentleman, his pupil, who had written a lively book about the law of demises, with a vast quantity of marginal notes and references; and several other eminent and distinguished personages."

F Scrivener	pre 1881	
George Palmer	1894 to 1942	President 1906,1924,1928,1932; Captain 1907 to 1942; Friend of King Edward V11
Eric Burton	1963 to 1965	
W A Ranson	1966 to 1976	
Richard Pashley	1979 to 1999	
Stan Kite	2000 to 2006	
Nigel Bloor	2009 to present	

The Zephyr - upon which he winked to the Zephyr

"After settling this point, he began to be conscious that he was getting sleepy; whereupon he took his nightcap out of the pocket in which he had had the precaution to stow it in the

morning, and, leisurely undressing himself, got into bed and fell asleep. 'Bravo! Heel over toe--cut and shuffle--pay away at it, Zephyr! I'm smothered if the opera house isn't your proper hemisphere. Keep it up! Hooray!' These expressions, delivered in a most boisterous tone, and accompanied with loud peals of laughter, roused Mr. Pickwick from one of those sound slumbers which, lasting in reality some half-hour, seem to the sleeper to have been protracted for three weeks or a month. The voice had no sooner ceased than the room was shaken with such violence that the windows rattled in their frames, and the bedsteads trembled again. Mr. Pickwick started up, and remained for some minutes fixed in mute astonishment at the scene before him. On the floor of the room, a man in a broad-skirted green coat, with corduroy knee-smalls and gray cotton stockings, was performing the most popular steps of a hornpipe, with a slang and burlesque caricature of grace and lightness, which, combined with the very appropriate character of his costume, was inexpressibly absurd. Another man, evidently very drunk, who had probably been tumbled into bed by his companions, was sitting up between the sheets, warbling as much as he could recollect of a comic song, with the most intensely sentimental feeling and expression; while a third, seated on one of the bedsteads, was applauding both performers with the air of a profound connoisseur, and encouraging them by such ebullitions of feeling as had already roused Mr. Pickwick from his sleep. "

L T Delaney	1924 to 1932
Charles Craven	1992 to 1995
Donald P Hayden	1997 to 2008
Edward Cross	2009 to present

Ramsey - a debtor to 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. 'Ah, Ramsey--a precious seedy-looking customer. "Well, sir," says old Fogg, looking at him very fierce--you know his way-- "well, Sir, have you come to settle?" "Yes, I have, sir," said Ramsey, putting his hand in his pocket, and bringing out the money, "the debt's two pound ten, and the costs three pound five, and here it is, Sir;" and he sighed like bricks, as he lugged out the money, done up in a bit of blotting-paper. Old Fogg looked first at the money, and then at him, and then he coughed in his rum way, so that I knew something was coming. "You don't know there's a declaration filed, which increases the costs materially, I suppose," said Fogg. "You don't say that, sir," said Ramsey, starting back; "the time was only out last night, Sir." "I do say it, though," said Fogg, "my clerk's just gone to file it. Hasn't Mr. Jackson gone to file that declaration in Bullman and Ramsey, Mr. Wicks?"

Of course I said yes, and then Fogg coughed again, and looked at Ramsey. "My God!" said Ramsey; "and here have I nearly driven myself mad, scraping this money together, and all to no purpose." "None at all," said Fogg coolly; "so you had better go back and scrape some more together, and bring it here in time." "I can't get it, by God!" said Ramsey, striking the desk with his fist."

F D Warriner	1925 to 1938
J W Philips	1941 to 1966
E V Barnes	1968 to 1975
R A Hutton	1975 to 1976
A M Squire	1976 to 1991
William (Bill) F T Bannister	1991 to 2005
Karl Wilkinson	2007 to present

Mr Frank Simmery - Mr Flasher's betting friend

"Just so," replied Mr. Simmery, putting it down. "Flasher-- ten guineas to five, Boffer kills himself." Within what time shall we say?' 'A fortnight?' suggested Wilkins Flasher, Esquire. 'Con-found it, no,' rejoined Mr. Simmery, stopping for an instant to smash a fly with the ruler. 'Say a week.' 'Split the difference,' said Wilkins Flasher, Esquire. 'Make it ten days.' 'Well; ten days,'rejoined Mr. Simmery. So it was entered down on the little books that Boffer was to kill himself within ten days, or Wilkins Flasher, Esquire, was to hand over to Frank Simmery, Esquire, the sum of ten guineas; and that if Boffer did kill himself within that time, Frank Simmery, Esquire, would pay to Wilkins Flasher, Esquire, five guineas, instead. 'I'm very sorry he has failed,' said Wilkins Flasher, Esquire. 'Capital dinners he gave.' 'Fine port he had too,' remarked Mr. Simmery. 'We are going to send our butler to the sale to-morrow, to pick up some of that sixty-four.' 'The devil you are!' said Wilkins Flasher, Esquire. 'My man's going too. Five guineas my man outbids your man.' 'Done.' "

L G Boor	pre 1881	
Austin C Edwards	1886 to 1944	Life Member
J Hunt	1950 to 1968	
R W Redman	1972 to 1976	
Jack F Hornsby	1978 to 2006	
Helmut Stibal	2008 to present	

H Walker - convert to temperance

"REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE BRICK LANE BRANCH OF THE UNITED GRAND JUNCTION EBENEZER TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION' Your committee have pursued their grateful labours during the past month, and have the unspeakable pleasure of reporting the following additional cases of converts to Temperance. 'H. Walker, tailor, wife, and two children. When in better circumstances, owns to having been in the constant habit of drinking ale and beer; says he is not certain whether he did not twice a week, for twenty years, taste "dog's nose," which your committee find upon inquiry, to be compounded of warm porter, moist sugar, gin, and nutmeg (a groan, and 'So it is!' from an elderly female). Is now out of work and penniless; thinks it must be the porter (cheers) or the loss of the use of his right hand; is not certain which, but thinks it very likely that, if he had drunk nothing but water all his life, his fellow-workman would never have stuck a rusty needle in him, and thereby occasioned his accident (tremendous cheering). Has nothing but cold water to drink, and never feels thirsty (great applause)."

John K Starley	1914 to 1919	
S J Courtney	1924 to 1935	
George H B Wilson CBE,MC,AFC,JP	1938 to 1964	President (1950), Vice President (1944)
E S Brown	1967 to 1968	
A E Ward	1968 to 1993	
R A Gibson	1975 to 1991	
Trevor Paine	1993 to present	

Events News.....

At last something to brighten our days, two events to look forward to:

Thursday 2nd December - (Still) 150th Annual Garden Party @ the Connaught Rooms.
Apply Hon Sec/Sgt Buzfuz . As you will have read in the Captain's News, as we go to press we don't know how many people will be allowed to attend this year, but you will be notified of any limits on guest numbers as soon as the situation is clarified.

Friday 25th February - Saddlers Hall. This is our delayed keynote Black Tie Dinner event to celebrate the Club's 150th anniversary, and we hope that as many members as possible will commit to attending. More info' will follow shortly.

Cyclist's Protest....

Recently I read a book (well within my capabilities before you ask) about the development history of the USA, and found within it a section about the development of their road network over 150 years ago, which I thought might be of interest, since cyclists were the catalyst to change things. So.....

"In the mid-19th Century, the American road network hardly existed, in spite of many attempts to improve it, and farmers were complaining about getting their goods to market due to the near quagmire conditions of the roads, particularly in winter. Enter the League of American Wheelmen, a cyclists' lobbying organisation who took up the task of raising public awareness of the poor state of the roads. By the 1880s, the so called dangerous-looking velocipede had become hugely popular and would soon be replaced by the Safety Bicycle. At that time, \$18 could buy you the freedom to tour the country, and if you were a woman, to do so in skirts & bloomers; a sport so liberating that it gained support from a certain Susan B. Anthony>(*) But the roads were still so execrable that 100,000 bicyclists went to Washington to complain. There was little point in owning a set of wheels they argued in unison, if the wheels could not be used. Towards the end of the century pressure from the cyclists was supplemented by protests from a tiny but swiftly growing number automobile makers. In 1893 the Duryea brothers, cycling mechanics who became automobile makers, set about their mission as poachers turned gamekeepers demanding better roads for cars as well. As a result, in 1894 the American government seemed to be listening and came up with \$10,000 to establish a department named The Office of Road Enquiry, with a simple mandate of 'Get the Farmer out of the mud' " (**Susan B. Anthony - a Quaker, and major social reformer of the period, a women's rights activist, and anti-slavery petitioner in the second half of the 19th Century)*

Up to that point the progress appeared to me to be on the right track, however as I read on I discovered that it wasn't until 1919, at the end of the Great War, that a young D.W.Eisenhower identified the roads as a national problem if the country was ever at war. He found that it would have been impossible to move an army across the country with any purpose, because the roads were still so poor, and set in motion a plan to change the face of the country road network. But amazingly it was a further 25years before the work finally came to fruition, when a certain Thomas MacDonald organised billions of tons of concrete and steel to make the plan become a reality.

It just goes to show that we cyclists have the ability to make a difference, even if it takes a lifetime!

Ref:The book - The Men Who Made The United States by Simon Winchester

Passing of Friends.....It is always with regret that we have to report the loss of Club members.

It's been a difficult year for everyone, and in this year we have sadly lost 6 members. So we remember them for their contributions to the Club, and your Secretary has written to their families to offer condolences on behalf of the Club.

As reported in the March issue, we lost Simon Fellman / The Bagman in February, a member since 2002.



In February we lost Harry Foxtton / The Secretary, a member since 1993.



And Martin O'Regan / Sam The Driver, a member since 1996.

In June it was Stanley Chamberlaine / John Smauker(retired), a member since 1987.



Then in July we lost Peter Turner / Sam Weller(retired), a member since 1973.



And finally in August it was Arthur Wilkinson /Bilson, a member since 2007.



Front Cover - from Chapter XL111

When Sam Weller Got Into Difficulties

“Wot a old image it is!” exclaimed Sam, indignant at this loss of time. “What are you a setting’ down there for, convertin’ your face into a street-door knocker, wen there’s so much to be done? Were’s the money?” “In the boot, Sammy, in the boot,” replied Mr Weller, composing his features. “Hold my hat, Sammy.” Having divested himself of his encumbrance, Mr. Weller gave his body a sudden wrench to one side, and by a dexterous twist, contrived get his right hand into a most capacious pocket, from whence, after a great deal of panting and exertion, he extricated a pocket-book of the large octavo size, fastened by a huge leathern strap. from the ledger he drew forth a couple of whip-lashes, three or four buckles, a little sample -bag of corn, and finally a small roll very dirty bank notes; from which he selected the required amount, which he handed over to Sam.

“And now, Sammy,” said the old gentleman, when the whip-lashes, and the buckles, and the sample had all been put back, and the book once more deposited at the bottom of the same pocket, “now Sammy, I know a gen’l m’n here as’ll do the rest of the business for us in no time - a limb o’ the law, Sammy, as has got brains like the frogs, dispersed all over his body, and reachin’ to the wery tips of his fingers’; a friend of the Lord Chancellorship’s, Sammy, who’d only have to tell him what he wanted, and he’d lock you up for life, if that was all.”

“I say,” said Sam, “none o’ that.”

“None o’ wot?” inquired Mr Weller.

“Wy, none o’ them unconstitutional ways o’ doing it.” retorted Sam. “The have-his-carcase, next to the perpetual motion, is fun of the blessedest things as was ever made. I’ve read that ‘ere in the newspapers why of ‘en.”

“Well, wot’s that got to do with it?” inquired Mr Weller.

“Just this here, said Sam, “that I’ll patronise the intention, and go in that way. No visperin’s to the Chancellorship - I don’t like the notion. It mayn’t be altogether safe, with reference to the gettin’ out again.”

Deferring to his son’s feelings upon the point, Mr Weller at once sought the erudite Solomon Pell, and acquainted him with his desire to issue a writ, instantly, for the sum of twenty-five pounds, and costs of process: to be executed without delay upon the body of one Samuel Weller; the charges thereby incurred to be paid in advance to Solomon Pell.

The attorney was in high glee; for the embarrassed coach-horse was ordered to be discharged forthwith. He highly approved of Sam’s attachment to his master; declared that it strongly reminded him of his own feelings of devotion to his friend the Chancellor; and at once led the elder Mr Weller down to Temple, to swear the affidavit of debt: which the boy, with the assistance of the blue bag, had drawn up on the spot.

Meanwhile, Sam, having been formally introduced to the whitewashed gentleman and his friends as the offspring of Mr Weller, of the Belle Savage, was treated with marked distinction, and invited to regale himself with them in honour of the occasion - an invitation which he was by no means backward in accepting.



NATIONAL CYCLE MUSEUM - CYCLE JUMBLE
23RD OCTOBER

This event will take place at the Automobile Palace, Llandrindod Wells

This will be the usual cycle-jumble & some surplus cycles from the stores will be auctioned. Anyone who has unwanted good condition spares to donate to the museum charity, please bring them along on the day or contact Steve for collection.

Some stalls are still available for the sale of cycle spares.

For all details contact Steve Griffith on:
griffith531@hotmail.com or tel: 07740 923630

Alternatively visit our website - www.cyclemuseum.org.uk

Why not come along and get a bargain and to see our various new displays in the museum.

