

The Pickwick Magazine

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

Founded in 1870



The Black Tie Dinner at Saddler's Hall - February 25th 2022

Still Celebrating our 150th Anniversary

Editor: Mr Winkle Snr

Volume 19 No.2 October 2022

Editorial murmurings.....

So, we finally achieved the completion of our well planned, albeit seriously disrupted 150th Anniversary celebrations. The Black Tie Dinner in February was a huge success, and the May President's Luncheon with 'our ladies' present at the Music Hall was another great occasion. Thanks must go to the organisers of both events, having had to plan & replan each of the dates as a result of the pandemic impact over the past 2 years.

Chapeaux to you all!

After the unwanted two years of limited mobility and restricted contact we have once more been able to enjoy a very active year in the Club, as all of the usual events have taken place once again. So plenty to catch up on in this issue. It has been pleasing to receive 'letters to the editor', well emails at least, which means that many of you really do read what appears in this magazine! So thanks to everyone that sent me items of such interest.

It is with sadness that we must say farewell to our Hon.Secretary for over 20years, Sergeant Buzfuz, who with his wife, is departing our shores for the land of Oz, no not as in the Wizard of, but to Canberra in Australia. He joins the illustrious ranks of Past Secretaries, which in my time as a member, have been just Wilkins Flasher & Mr Brooks. We wish them safe travel and good health, and maybe Stephen will write to us and let us know about their new life in the southern hemisphere.

I have to just touch on the subject of the May luncheon, your Captain will have a lot more to say, but whatever the circumstances, it was rather unfortunate that a member of the music hall entertainers, your Captain and your President, had to make some harsh comments about the noise in certain areas of the room. These events are not easy to organise and respect should be shown to everyone as well as members & guests.

Moving swiftly on.....a minor detail, but I passed a milestone at the May luncheon, having completed 50 years as a member of this amazing Club. Not quite as significant though as the 70 years Platinum Jubilee celebrations for the Queen. In the meantime, I hope you all enjoyed the hot summer and continued to keep well, Until next time..... ride safely and keep healthy!Mr Winkle Snr / Editor





Au revoir from Sergeant Buzfuz

As many of you will know, after many years my wife & I have hoped to move to live nearer our daughter in Canberra. I have attended my last Pickwickian lunch, at least for the time being, but I hope I leave the Club in good spirit recovering well from the last two years. I know I leave it in sound hands. Thirty-seven years ago we moved into our current house and met our neighbours, now good friends, and this move changed our lives. Rod & Iris were some of the biggest supporters of veteran cycling and with our family, we quickly became involved; joining veteran cycle clubs, and eventually forming a local club where I joined the committee and very soon became chairman. I also became involved with the NAVCC, and was President for several years. One member of the club was also a member of The Pickwick Bicycle Club and in due course I was invited by Mr Brooks as a guest, to a luncheon in London. Brooks then suggested I might like to become a member, and I was proposed, seconded and elected in 1996. I think Brooks, then secretary, must have had certain ideas already, as within 18 months I was proposed and elected Secretary of the Club, when he stood down. It is a post that I was honoured to accept, and have held for over 22 years.

I have greatly enjoyed my time with the Club and hope I have dealt with matters to members satisfaction. There have been highlights, not least of which was having the honour of being President in 2012, the year of Dicken's 200th anniversary of his birth, and very much enjoyed many special events. The highlight of which was a reception at Buckingham Palace where I met the Queen & Prince Philip, other members of the Royal family, members of the Dickens' family, and individuals from stage & screen involved with Dickensian productions, including Ron Moody (Fagin), who had spoken at a Club luncheon only a short time before. The unveiling of the Dicken's statue in Portsmouth, very close to my home, and attendance at functions at the Dicken's Museum in London, are other notable events I will always remember.

My lasting memories of the Club will however be, the fellowship of the members, and I shall take many fond memories of you characters with me.

I wish the Club well, and may it prosper over the next 150 years.

With Best Wishes

Sergeant Buzfuz (now retired) / Stephen Downham



Some News from your President.....

Gentlemen and Ladies, after the first ever President's lunch to be graced with lady guests, it's been a pleasure to be your President this year. I have been lucky enough to have been wearing the chain of office for 2 major events so far, the member's Black-Tie Dinner, and the aforementioned May luncheon.

At the first event, sitting at the top table, looking at my fellow members around the room, it gave me immense pride to be a member of such an historic Club. All those that attended, and I had the opportunity to speak to, had nothing but positivity say about the evening. Followed quickly by the Spring Luncheon at the Connaught Rooms, with our wives, partners and guests gracing the occasion, was another special occasion.

I expect there will be many words from numerous people in this issue of the magazine about both events, so I would like to mention some of the other events I've been lucky to attend in my year so far, that don't always get a mention. I would like to thank all of the Past Presidents for inviting me to their lunch at The George in Southwark, a place stacked in history and good quality pub grub with a drop of red to wash it all down! We talked at length about the two earlier events and ways forward for our historic Club, and with eleven (11) Past Presidents and myself, we came up with not unexpectedly, twelve (12) different perspectives as to where the Club is now, and it's way forward.

At this point I would like to invite all members to find time to express their views on the subject to our Club magazine editor Mr. Winkle Snr. (thanks Mr President!) As a member attending perhaps the AGM before the Garden Party each December, and with guests who need entertaining, I understand how hard it is to always get points across, with the result that views can go unheard.

Another event I was invited to participate in, was the Anniversary Ride on Sunday 19th June, organised by one of our newer members The Marquis of Filoteville (Phil Saunders). It was a ride of some 20 miles from the old Downs Hotel site to the Dickens Museum and back with some 'bubbles' along the way! A very enjoyable day out and one we hope will be repeated each year from now on. (see separate report on pp 31...Ed).

As one of the organisers of the Hampton Court Ride, I know how difficult it is to get events off the ground, so come along on October 6th and join in - everyone is welcome. Details were in the March edition of the magazine. I look forward to seeing you there or at the Garden Party in December.

Finally on behalf of the Club, I would like to thank Sergeant Buzfuz (Stephen Downham) , our Honorary Secretary for his loyal service, and the hours of time that he has given to our Club for over 20 years, and hope that his retirement and life 'down under' is to his liking. Wishing Stephen the best of health and happiness with his family.

My year isn't over yet but it's been an honour to serve you all.

Regards...Your President, Mr Samuel Pickwick

We now have a special comment from *The President's Lady Wife*

As Mr Pickwick's lady wife, I was honoured to be invited to the President's Spring Luncheon at the Connaught Rooms in May of this year. It was an absolute pleasure to be at such a milestone event as this, and all of the other ladies that I spoke to had a fabulous time.

It was so interesting to see and hear all of the Pickwickian customs that go towards making the Club the iconic institute that it is.

I now know and understand, just why my husband is so proud to be a member and in particular to be President this year.

On behalf of all the ladies, thank you for inviting us.

Mrs President

We thank you for those few kind words.....

Your Captain has some words for you.....



Dear Fellow Pickwickians,

I want to start this Captain's words by paying tribute to Sgt Buzfuz our Club Secretary for the past twenty years, who has recently retired and emigrated to Australia to live closer to his daughter. Buzfuz has done a wonderful job for our Club over the last twenty years, always keeping a calm head and steering our club along smoothly. It really has been a privilege to work alongside Stephen Downham on the Club's committee. Stephen has been an outstanding Club member and on behalf of all Club members, I wish to say thank you and wish you a great new life in Australia.

I do hope that my fellow Pickwickians have enjoyed a lovely summer with all the great weather we have had and are now looking forward to all the events planned by your club for the rest of this year.

At the recent Presidents luncheon in May, the standard of behaviour was totally unacceptable. It has always been the case, that when people speak or try to entertain members and guests, quiet is required. Sadly this did not happen. Whether this was because Ladies were present and maybe the men were showing off, I don't know, but can I remind members that firstly, they and their guests must listen to all instructions given and be quiet when people are speaking or entertaining them. As already mentioned, in May when the Brick Lane music Hall people were trying to entertain us, at great expense to our Club, a number of members and guests were talking and refused to be quiet when asked to stop.

This is unacceptable. Please be better behaved in December.

Can I also remind members that you are responsible for your guests and need to ensure the dress code expected for Club events is met by them. This is smart dress, with jackets and ties obligatory. We are a great Club which has just celebrated our 150th birthday, let's keep the standards up and keep our great Club going for many more years to come.

Dr Payne / Club Captain

The 150th Celebration Black-Tie Dinner



The Welcoming Committee

Friday evening, February 25th 2022, saw some 120 plus, members of the Pickwick Bicycle Club rendezvous at Saddlers Hall in Gutter Lane, London, for the penultimate part of the jigsaw that formed our 150th Anniversary celebrations. An alternative venue to that in the original plans, but an exceptional location nonetheless, with the classically styled Great Hall, being a perfect fit for our dinner.

On arrival at the venue there was plenty of opportunity to view many of the wonderful examples of the Livery Company's history, with silver display cases, portraits of Past Company Masters, stained glass windows, the musician's gallery and of course the display in the Saddle Room. - all of which looked to be more comfortable than those which most of us are used to! Then it was up the staircase to be received by the Club Officers; The President, The Secretary, & The Captain before moving along to indulge ourselves at the shell food stall. A collection of jellied eels, mussels, oysters, and other shell fish. Of course, accompanied by adequate supplies of Pickwick beer. And we hadn't even started dinner yet.



All photos, Courtesy of Mark Thomas

The Shell Fish Bar





The Household Cavalry



Boz (Mr Ian Dickens)

Our familiar friends from the Household Cavalry duly provided the fanfare summoning us to table in the Great Hall. We were also joined by the regular two members from Chelsea Hospital, the Chelsea Pensioners.. Following grace by Boz (Ian Dickens), we were seated with boaters either removed or remaining in situ.



At each place setting, there was a Pickwickian Tote bag, a table mat depicting our 'Original Members', & a beer glass. Most importantly though, there was a clay pipe plus shag - how fitting for a Club celebration that these iconic items, for so long part of our dynasty, should appear before us once again. There was also the news that after dinner we could, if desired, adjourn to the courtyard and light up. Furthermore, amongst the cutlery and glassware, we each found a Pickwick bicycle bell, causing much hilarity and a cacophony of noise - although one or two members failed to manage any sound with their specific bell. They'd probably never ever used them on their bikes in the past! The food was 'par excellent' and very traditional, with Mushroom Soup, Beef Wellington, Bramley Apple Tart, and followed by Stilton & Cheddar Cheese. All accompanied by very drinkable wines.

A momentary break in proceedings was allowed before we were enthralled by Mr Gerald Dickens who did a reading from Pickwick Papers, creating such imagination that you felt you were part of the action as you were transported into the world of the Guildhall and the Trial of Bardell v Pickwick. An amazing oratory of Ch XXXIV, with the voices of Sgt Buzfuz, Justice Stareleigh, Perker, Sgt Snubbin, Thomas Groffin, Mrs Bardell, Mrs Cluppins and many other names involved in the affair, changing as befitted the characters, and with such consummate ease that you began to believe they were all in the Great Hall with us.



Mr Gerald Dickens

Hats off (well Boaters) to the great, great, grandson of the Great man, as this was one of the most unique happenings we've had at a Pickwick function. It was such perfection which was ideal for our special event.

"We thank you for your few kind words"

The President took to the floor to invite former Treasurer Jack Martin (John Mist) to come forward and receive his Honorary Life Member Medal for his sterling efforts of 17 years. Then the Chelsea Pensioners wheeled in the Joseph Atto Punch Bowl to introduce themselves & take wine with the President.



Jack Martin receives his medal



The Chelsea pensioners meet the President

It was time then to change the tone as we welcomed another old friend, Ian Irving, who had been able to accommodate us in spite of the two year delay of the original booking. We last had the pleasure of his company back in 2014, and we weren't disappointed to see him again. An accomplished raconteur he was as amusing as ever with some old, & some new stories that held his audience without interruption - which was just as well, as his sharp wit would have picked up on comments wherever they occurred in the room.



Ian Irving takes control

His stories covered the spectrum of life and of course he knew our Club of old, so was able to use that knowledge in his repartee. For me the one story that stuck in the mind, appropriately more suited to the older members present, was " Shall I write it down?" Can you remember that one? He concluded to great applause before proposing the toast to 'The Immortal Memory of Charles Dickens & The Pickwick Bicycle Club'. Unusual in itself inasmuch that it is normally for the guests to raise their glasses, but on this occasion it was the Club members who did so.

Our President had a hard act to follow with both Gerald Dickens and Ian Irving preceding him, but with his usual laconic style and a big smile on his face, he expressed his thanks to the organisers of this special occasion, and to our guest speakers before asking everyone to charge their glasses and toast each other. So it was time for Auld Lang Syne to ring out and we moved out of the Great Hall and back to the area adjacent to the Saddle Room. All too soon the evening was coming towards a close, but there would still be time to mingle and consume more Pickwickian Ale, or even disappear outside to light the pipes. Thus ended one of the Club's most prestigious events that befitted our 150th Anniversary.



Once again we must report the passing of friends.....

Sadly we have lost three members this year, 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.

Don McKellow- Solomon Pell - joined the Club in 1990, and was the most senior Club member by age. Always remembered for his ride in the GB 1000metres team at the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games (coming within 2 secs of the world record at the time) A member since 1990.

Michael Rumbold - Mr Staples (retired) - joined the Pickwick BC in 1986.

Derek Pendry - Blink (retired) - joined the Club in 2005, was President in 2011 and our Golf Secretary for 11 years.

Horsham Museum.....more strange machines



20th century Spring Tyred Tricycle

In the October '21 magazine, I included an article about the 5-wheeled Pentacycle in the Horsham Town Museum, and promised to find some more interesting items. This time it's an early 20th century Tricycle with Spring Tyres. According to the description -

"There were numerous attempts to solve the problem of vibration. One solution was to the fitting of spring tyres, but sadly it did not catch on.

Although pneumatic tyres were widely available, by the time this machine was made, the spring tyre was used in Germany during WW1, due to a shortage of rubber."

Will this item provoke some interesting comments from our members, I ask?

(Picture & info courtesy of the Horsham Town Museum)

The 2022 President's Luncheon

Finally our long awaited 'Ladies Invitation' luncheon took place in May at the usual venue of the Connaught Rooms. The layout of the hall was different, allowing for the placement of the stage to be used for the entertainment later in proceedings. It was a very different affair to that which members are used to, and the added colour from the ladies attire contributed much ambience to the event. But what would the ladies think of us all?



The Grand Hall is ready and the guests take their places



At very late notice and due to military duties in preparation for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, our regular guests from the Household Cavalry were unavailable to perform their usual duties of extracting members from the Hercules Pillars across the road, and summoning everyone to table at the appropriate time. However, our erstwhile Secretary and team pulled the proverbial rabbit from the hat and found a very professional group of alternative musicians - The London Fanfare Trumpeters to perform for us.

As usual the Captain issued his instructions on how to behave, when to speak, when to sing, and above all, when to be quiet. A few practice bars of the choruses, and we all rose to welcome the President and his wife to the top table in the normal manner. Grace followed (sic!) and the hubbub of the room calmed as our repast arrived. The menu was up to the accepted standards of the Connaught Rooms, with a strange soup of potato, chilli, coriander, & coconut milk, followed by Salmon gravlax 'avec' dressing, and a main course of chicken breast and the necessary extras. The meal concluded with a chocolate & raspberry pie and ice cream. The food is only ever mentioned in these reports for the interest of those unfortunate members who are unable to attend the luncheon.

The Queen's toast was made by the President early in the proceedings. Shortly after, came the arrival of our 'Original Member' Namby (aka Maurice Burton) who carefully manoeuvred his way around the tables with his 'Ordinary' to take wine with the President. The usual choruses followed.

There followed a very poignant moment when the President requested the presence of Hon Sec. Sergeant Buzfuz at the top table. As seen elsewhere in this magazine, Buzfuz has been the 'hub' of our Club for many years, and the second longest serving Secretary in the Club's history. The President was very pleased to present him with just the third of the new Honorary Lifetime Medal for his extraordinary service to the Club. The appropriate chorus of " Why was he.....' followed with gusto.



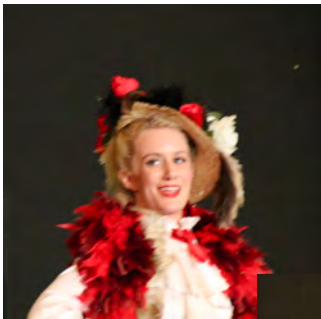
Arrival of the Punch Bowl

Our Chelsea Pensioners with the Joseph Atto punchbowl were then heralded to the top table to the strains of The Old Brigade signature theme. They then announced their respective regiment, number and rank before taking wine with the President. As we celebrated our anniversary, it was worth stopping for a moment to consider theirs. The Royal Hospital came about thanks to the vision of King Charles II, to provide a home for veteran soldiers, and brought to life by Sir Christopher Wren. It opened in 1692, some 178 years before our Club came into existence. So, I guess they trump us for the longest history, but we are always pleased to welcome them as part of the family at our functions.

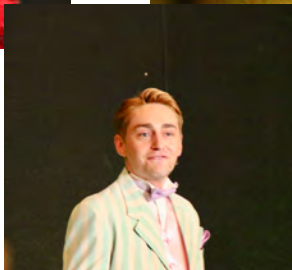
Bob Sawyer (Gerry Taylor) then appeared on the stage - was he to be part of our entertainment? No, he was there to welcome the many guests & ladies to our celebratory luncheon - see pp15 for full details.

It was then time for Hon. Sec. Buzfuz to perform his last official duty at a Club function as he introduced the five newly elected members to our Club. These were: Matthew Hargroves to be known as **"No.20"**; Matthew Samuel-Camps as **"Sam Weller"**; Philip Holford will be known as **"Tony Weller"**; James Tucker as **"Sam the Driver"**; and finally Simon Martell to be known as **"Count Smalltork"**. We welcome them into the Club, trust they will be well versed in all aspects of the Club & The Pickwick Papers, and carry the Club identity forward with pride.

We were then admirably entertained by the Brick Lane Music Hall ensemble, in vibrant costumes performing well known period songs (known to the older members at least...), dexterity on their respective instruments, solo performances, and encouraging everyone to join in whenever they felt inclined to do so.



The Brick Lane
Ensemble



As the applause subsided for our much appreciated entertainers, it was over to Vincent Hayes of the Brick Lane Ensemble to invite guests to raise their glasses to the " Immortal Memory of Charles Dickens & The Pickwick Bicycle Club. Such was the atmosphere in the room, that time had passed quickly and it was time for President Samuel Pickwick to respond on behalf of the members.

He thanked everyone for their presence, especially the ladies, at this, the last event of our anniversary, admonished the noisier element in the room, and said how proud he was to be President at such unique Club functions during his year of office. He then invited the members to rise, & raise their glasses to the guests, and wished everyone a safe journey home, before we concluded proceedings by linking arms for Auld Lang Syne.

Bob Sawyer Welcomes the Guests

I am very proud to be the first member in our 150 year history, to welcome lady guests to our President's Luncheon! Welcome to you all!

On table 23, guest of Gabriel Grubb we are honoured to have Sheila Hardy who is the first lady Chairman of Cycling Time Trials in its' 100 year history and has been Chairman for 31 years!

On table 26 as a guest of Mr Winkle Senior. we welcome Dr Cindy Sughrue OBE who has been the Director of the Dickens Museum since 2015. She is also a Board member of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra and was previously Chief Executive of the Scottish Ballet.

On table 2 as a guest of Brown of Muggleton we are pleased to see Jacqui Cook, a former World record holder on a tandem, and now is a Director of Andy Cook Cycling organising corporate and charity rides as well as bike camps.

On table 29 we welcome Briony McManus who has given invaluable support to Mr Watty in organising your Club luncheons for the last 5 years!

On table 26 a guest of Mr Luffey, is Adrian Williams who is Managing Director of Pashley Cycles who have made quality hand-built British bicycles since 1926.

On table 6 as a guest of Old Wardle, we welcome Roger Wakeling, member of Antelope Racing team and Cycling Time Trials organiser of National Closed-Circuit TT this year and the last 8 years at Thrupton Circuit.

On table 16 as a guest of Henry, we welcome Kevin Parker, General Secretary of the Manchester City supporters club for 23 years. It has over 300 branches worldwide and over 20,000 members! Kevin has been a season ticket holder for over 50 years and is proud to see his club on top of the Premiership - again!

On table 15 as a guest of Stumpy and Smangle we are delighted to welcome Ted James, founder of JE James Cycles and senior partner for over 60 years.

And finally we have 2 birthdays today - on table 2 guest of Job Trotter Happy Brthday to Dave Morris, and our fellow member The Late Mr Bardell - Happy Birthday to you too Sir!



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, then please contact Joseph Smiggers at: steve@stephenbullen.com and you will receive the information by return.

Joseph Smiggers Esq. PVPMP C – Perpetual Vice President, PC:

"May 12, 1827. Joseph Smiggers, Esq., P.V.P.M.P.C. [Perpetual Vice-President--Member Pickwick Club], presiding. The following resolutions unanimously agreed to: 'That this Association has heard read, with feelings of unmingled satisfaction, and unqualified approval, the paper communicated by Samuel Pickwick, Esq. G.C.M.P.C. [General Chairman--Member Pickwick Club], entitled "Speculations on the Source of the Hampstead Ponds, with some Observations on the Theory of Tittlebats;" and that this Association does hereby return its warmest thanks to the said Samuel Pickwick, Esq., G.C.M.P.C., for the same. 'That while this Association is deeply sensible of the advantages which must accrue to the cause of science, from the production to which they have just adverted--no less than from the unwearied researches of Samuel Pickwick, Esq., G.C.M.P.C., in Hornsey, Highgate, Brixton, and Camberwell--they cannot but entertain a lively sense of the inestimable benefits which must inevitably result from carrying the speculations of that learned man into a wider field, from extending his travels, and, consequently, enlarging his sphere of observation, to the advancement of knowledge, and the diffusion of learning".

F Gillette	pre 1881	
Robert Willis	1919 to 1931	President 1925.
Viscount Nuffield CBE	1942 to 1964	President 1944; 1945
Colonel HA (Jim) Hare	1970 to 1980	
Stephen Bullen	1980 to present	President 1999

The Chaplain:

"These two gentlemen having by turns perused Mr. Pickwick's billet, the one expressed his opinion that it was 'a rig,' and the other his conviction that it was 'a go.' Having recorded their feelings in these very intelligible terms, they looked at Mr. Pickwick and each other in awkward silence. 'It's an aggravating thing, just as we got the beds so snug,' said the chaplain, looking at three dirty mattresses, each rolled up in a blanket; which occupied

one corner of the room during the day, and formed a kind of slab, on which were placed an old cracked basin, ewer, and soap-dish, of common yellow earthenware, with a blue flower--'very aggravating.' "

Rupert (?Richard) W Bladon 1992 to 2003
 Anthony Prichard 2003 to present

Prince Bladud - son of Lud Hudibras, King of Britain - legend of the sources of the waters of Bath:

"THE TRUE LEGEND OF PRINCE BLADUD 'Less than two hundred years ago, on one of the public baths in this city, there appeared an inscription in honour of its mighty founder, the renowned Prince Bladud. That inscription is now erased. 'For many hundred years before that time, there had been handed down, from age to age, an old legend, that the illustrious prince being afflicted with leprosy, on his return from reaping a rich harvest of knowledge in Athens, shunned the court of his royal father, and consorted moodily with husbandman and pigs. Among the herd (so said the legend) was a pig of grave and solemn countenance, with whom the prince had a fellow-feeling --for he too was wise--a pig of thoughtful and reserved demeanour; an animal superior to his fellows, whose grunt was terrible, and whose bite was sharp. The young prince sighed deeply as he looked upon the countenance of the majestic swine; he thought of his royal father, and his eyes were bedewed with tears."

E Hearle	pre 1881	
J A Hawkins	1881 to 1906	
G B Hemming	1920 to 1923	
Charles Reginald Willis	1925 to 1939	Son of Robert Willis (Joseph Smiggers). Presented the Robert Willis Cup to promote the annual 100-mile road race
H J Brueton	1941 to 1953	
Walter Flory	1955 to 1983	Captain. Addressed as Mr Pickwick Esq.
Chris C Tyler	1973 to present	(Honorary Member) - President 1980
James Tyler	2014 to 2017	
Tim Clark	2021 to present	

Brother Tadger - member GJE Temperance Association:

"'He may approach, I think,' said Mr. Humm, looking round him, with a fat smile. 'Brother Tadger, let him come forth and greet us.' The little man in the drab shorts who answered to the name of Brother Tadger, bustled down the ladder with great speed, and was immediately afterwards heard tumbling up with the Reverend Mr. Stiggins. 'He's a-comin', Sammy,' whispered Mr. Weller, purple in the countenance with suppressed laughter. 'Don't say nothin' to me,' replied Sam, 'for I can't bear it. He's close to the door. I hear him a-knockin' his head again the lath and plaster now.' As Sam Weller spoke, the little door flew

open, and Brother Tadger appeared, closely followed by the Reverend Mr. Stiggins, who no sooner entered, than there was a great clapping of hands, and stamping of feet, and flourishing of handkerchiefs; to all of which manifestations of delight, Brother Stiggins returned no other acknowledgment than staring with a wild eye, and a fixed smile, at the extreme top of the wick of the candle on the table, swaying his body to and fro, meanwhile, in a very unsteady and uncertain manner."

Otto Riehmer	1878 to 1913	Vice-President -1900,1901,1902,1903,1910,1917
D Le Frank Bates	1924 to 1929	
P W Howard	1932 to 1935	
F P Coates	1937 to 1939	
J W F Day MA	1942 to 1961	
F H Dredge	1961 to 1973	
H Hallen	1973 to 1991	
Colin Burley	1992 to present	

Mr Charles Fitz-Marshall - one of Jingles' aliases - at Mrs Leo Hunter's party:

"Nothing seemed wanting to render the select circle complete, when Mr. Leo Hunter--whose department on these occasions, was to stand about in doorways, and talk to the less important people--suddenly called out-- 'My dear; here's Mr. Charles Fitz-Marshall.' 'Oh dear,' said Mrs. Leo Hunter, 'how anxiously I have been expecting him. Pray make room, to let Mr. Fitz-Marshall pass. Tell Mr. Fitz-Marshall, my dear, to come up to me directly, to be scolded for coming so late.' 'Coming, my dear ma'am,' cried a voice, 'as quick as I can--crowds of people--full room--hard work--very.' Mr. Pickwick's knife and fork fell from his hand. He stared across the table at Mr. Tupman, who had dropped his knife and fork, and was looking as if he were about to sink into the ground without further notice."

Derrick Campion	1937 to 1958
B A Marshall	1960 to 1994
Jon Edwards	1996 to 2014
Andrew Donald	2016 to present

[Something to look forward to in the March 2023 magazine.....](#)

Too late for this issue, but look out for the report on the Grand Old Ordinary & Penny Farthing races at Hillingdon Cycle Circuit organised by Mr Watty aided by Pruffle & Co, to compete for the recently acquired (giant) Challenge Cup, and the Veteran's Tankard which originate from 1910. 20+ riders in each race, so it should be quite an event.

Mr Pickwick in the Movies?.....well TV maybe!

Your President recently sent me the following item about his escapade with Mr Watty.

Firecracker - A Channel 5 Pilot

"On the 11th of July your President and Mr Watty were invited along with any other Pickwick members who owned Penny Farthings, to attend a pilot screening for Channel 5. Your Honorary Secretary rang round the members he knew might be available to attend at short notice, but with very little luck, so only ended up with yours truly!

The location was Crossness pumping station on the banks of the Thames in Essex, one of the most beautiful surviving examples of Victorian civil architecture in London. After an early start, with Stuart kindly offering to collect me on route, we arrived on set around

11am, on one of the hottest days of the year. The Victorians certainly knew how to build things to last, and we were treated to a tour of the museum along with the still working pump engines. Now if you like all things Victorian, don't mind the smell of the largest sewage works in London and have an interest in the invention of the toilet system, I can highly recommend a visit, but word of advice, go on a cooler weather day!



As with many days on a film set, there's a lot of hanging around and after 6 hours we hadn't put on our Pickwick outfits or our 1900s clothes. The show is a cross between "scrap heap challenge" and the "Great British Bake off". Two teams in a Victorian workshop are set a challenge and that was to make a Victorian item in 48 hours. And yes, you've guessed it - a Penny Farthing bicycle. With 2 experts on hand and the presenter Griff Rhys-Jones holding it all together, and your President and Secretary appearing in some of the background shots, the next 2 hours was all go, with Stuart trying his best to teach Mr. Jones how to ride the Penny without much success. It was left to Stuart and the 2 expert riders to show how it was done, as at this point I found that after not riding a Penny for about 20 years, my knees are not as flexible as they once were! So it was left to the 3 of them to show off their skills. Alas the jackets and boater did not get to see the light of day, but Griff Rhys-Jones was very knowledgeable about our connections with the past and with our Club, and kept us both entertained all day, a true professional. Sorry I can't tell you who won, you will just have to look out for the show!"



Our Duo with Griff Rhys-Jones

Your President..... Mr Pickwick.



The Annual Golf Day Report by Smithers

A splendid June day graced the first Golf & Cycle Day for three years held, as always, at Harpenden Common Golf Club on Thursday 9th June. We were once again made most welcome by the management and catering staff, although these have both changed from previous years. The attendance, compared to other years was meagre, which was unfortunate as those who did attend had a most convivial time.

The five members who golfed, together with their nine guests, really appreciated the excellent condition of the course and the two members plus three guests who joined us for lunch, were very appreciative of the fine repast. We dined in the light and airy clubhouse on parsnip soup, terrine, chicken pie, and creme brûlée. The golf was as always played to a respectable standard, although the nearest to the pin competition left much to be desired (see below). The results were as follows:

Namby Cup - (best stableford score) - Mr Warren (Nigel Redmile) 38pts

Crandyke Cup -(best stableford score guests) - Mark Doorbar(guest of George the Father)

Winkle Cup - (nearest the pin members) - Dr Payne of the 43rd /Captain (Tim Stephens)

Note - the actual nearest the pin was Mr Warren (the only member on the green) but in true Pickwickian tradition, no one person can win two trophies, so the cup was awarded to Dr Payne as he was the closest - albeit, in a bunker!

The Mini Winkle Cup -(nearest the pin guests) - David Livett (guest of Dr Payne)

Jinkins Balls - (for something exceptional on the course) - George the Father

He holed a forty foot putt after one of his partners had done exactly the same thing!

You will note that the Blink Bowl for cycling was not awarded - which was because we had no cyclists this year! I sincerely hope this will be remedied next year.

If there is a member who is prepared to take on the organisation of the cycling, I would be very grateful if they would contact me. My sincere thanks to Mr Justice Stareleigh (Ron Gray) who has expertly arranged the cycling for many years, and I'm sure he would be only too happy to advise any new organiser of suitable routes.



I very much look forward to seeing more of you next year for a day of golf, cycling, good dining and most of all great company.

Thank you Smithers.

Cycling Shirts Available, but be Quick About it!

Past President Bulman (Brian Vandervilt) has in his possession, two of our delightful Pickwick Bicycle Club cycling shirts, Ideal for Club events or simply out riding where you might find yourself stopped by an inquisitive onlooker, who wants to know more about the Club.

The shirt sizes are: 1 x 3XL and 1 x 2XL and are priced @ £45 each.



Contact Bulman at bdvcorinthians@hotmail.com

Correspondence to the Editor



Remember, you can always have your say in the magazine by sending me correspondence in whatever format suits you.

Send it to: pickwick2610@hotmail.com or to Taverners, Warninglid Lane, Plummers Plain, West Sussex RH13 6NY

You will recall that the back cover of the March magazine pictured the infamous Pump-Up Penny, about which your President subsequently said "he knew her!" I have since received the following mail from Dr Slammer:

I write in response to the photograph on the rear page of the March 2022 issue of your magazine. The image of the bicycle having its tyre inflated is not what the modern world calls a Penny Farthing. It is of a geared front-driving bicycle (GFD), probably manufactured by the Crypto Bicycle Co. of City Road London, although there were other makers using the gearing system patented by the Crypto Company. My learned friend Scotford Lawrence, is right when he says that pneumatic-tyred machines of this type helped to continue the enthusiasm for high-wheeled bicycles against the advance of the smaller wheeled Safety Bicycles, but is entirely wrong when he implies that pneumatic-tyred Ordinaries have not survived. Indeed, there are a great number surviving, mainly in museums perhaps, but they were offered for sale until at least 1894, and there are still several in use in France, where numerous enthusiasts have manufactured modern tyres to fit.

A range of different 'Crypto' gears were available. Although difficult to be sure because the imaged bicycle is at an angle, it appears to have a 34-inch driving wheel, and records show that this could be geared as high as 65-inches, thereby almost doubling the distance travelled by one turn of the pedals. Gearing of this type was popular because, unlike the Safety Bicycle with inch-pitch chain drive to the rear wheel, a chain that was open to abuse and clogging, 'Crypto' gearing was a sealed dust free unit and the motto, 'no chain, no snags' was adopted by the company. The other advantage was that GFD machines were lighter, and more comfortable to ride. This type of geared bicycle, with various sizes of driving wheel, remained popular between the years 1891 and 1895, with the much smaller, but similarly operated, 'Bantam' bicycle lasting to 1899. The Ordinary Bicycle had been a highly successful mode of transport from the days of its transition from the Velocipede.

Emerging from about 1872, the pioneer makers were the Coventry Machinists Co., John Keen, William Grout and James Starley and come the late 1870s, with significant development in strong lightweight steels, the Ordinary bicycle matured into an impressive recreational mount, ridden by young men in

search of excitement and camaraderie. This type of high bicycle remained popular until about 1894, and it is believed that almost half a million were manufactured in Britain (probably one million worldwide) between 1872 and 1894 and that about ½% (2500) survive in the UK today. After about 1891, the Ordinary became an increasing nostalgic ride and while some makers helped to perpetuate its use by adding pneumatic tyres, they became termed 'Grand Old Ordinary' in the cycling press and by clubmen. However, street urchins, ner-do-wells and low social groups derided the machines and disparagingly called them 'Penny Farthings', a term rejected by the students of cycling history today. Unfortunately, the term is perpetuated today as being authentic, particularly so within media circles, because to explain that an unusual design of bicycle to modern eyes is named an Ordinary Bicycle, takes too many column inches to explain.

Prior to 1878, Ordinaries were just called bicycles. The change in name came about via journalists writing in the popular bicycling press of the day. With the advent of a new type of bicycle with its lower saddle and a rear-powered wheel, and to differentiate between the two types of bicycle, commentators called these 'Safety Bicycles' because being seated closer to the ground, they were considered safer to ride. On the other hand, high-saddled bicycles were re-named 'Ordinary Bicycles', because compared with some of the weird and curious 'Safety Bicycle' designs emanating from the 1878 period, they were ordinary.

The idea of a bicycle with drive to the rear wheel, as in the modern bicycle, featured in the pages of The English Mechanic in 1869. The machine had a 40-inch front and 24-inch rear wheel powered through a chain and promised perfect safety in mounting and dismounting, but as Nicholas Clayton says in his book, Early Bicycles: ['Initial press comments were encouraging, but the public refused to be tempted: it appeared that improvements in safety were not to be traded for reductions in speed or handling quality.'](#)

Harry Lawson (1852–1925), a motoring entrepreneur but perhaps better known for duplicitously obtaining money from his shareholders and being found guilty of financial fraud in 1904, had an earlier history that demonstrated inspired thinking. In 1878 he designed what he named a 'Bicyclette', which was manufactured by Daniel Rudge & Co., and was the first bicycle to adopt a chain to drive the rear wheel. However, only a few appear to have been manufactured and then quickly withdrawn from the market, probably because the steering geometry was not precise enough. In 1881 Ellis & Co. built their 'Facile,' a lever-driven Safety Bicycle which was continually updated and continued in production until 1888, when the similarly-sized wheeled machine, with chain drive designs of the J. K. Starley 'Rover' type was demonstrated as being easier to ride. Various Safety Bicycles became increasingly popular, eventually ousting the Ordinary by 1894, when manufacturers stopped offering them. The Hillman Herbert and Cooper Ordinary belonging to the Club, and often used for photographs is not a Penny Farthing, but as a descriptive term, my belief is that it is reasonable to refer to it as a High Bicycle. In discussion with our assistant secretary, Mr Watty, we are of a mind that modern reproductions of Ordinaries can, with some justification, be termed Penny Farthings.

Kind regardsDr Slammer(Peter W.Card)

Dr Slammer provided the following photos in support of his correspondence



Harry Lawson's 'Bicyclette' which was patented in 1878 and was described as a Safety Bicycle.

A circa 1892 photograph of three intrepid bicyclists. The machine on the right is a 40" pneumatic-tyred Crypto Geared Front Driving Bicycle, similar to that seen on the back cover of the March magazine. The central machine is a lever driven 'Facile' Safety Bicycle of the type manufactured by Ellis & Co from 1882, and the one on the left is a Hillman Herbert & Cooper, solid-tyred diamond-framed Safety Bicycle, of the equal sized wheel type that would eventually oust from the market, all other types of bicycle.



A circa 1894 photograph of a pneumatic-tyred Crypto Geared Front Driving Bicycle

[More communications were received from new member Simon Martel \(Count Smaltork\).....](#)

Dear Mr Winkle

Several years ago, I was given a copy of the '*History of the Pickwick Bicycle Club*' compiled by the Hon Mr. Crushton, 1905 first edition. On the front free end paper is the name of the onetime owner, W. Webb and confirming that he was a member of the PBC.

Further, sandwiched between the pages was a monochrome photograph of a group of cyclists with an inscription on the rear saying, 'Pickwick B. C. Bob Willis in Centre'.



Please see this photograph attached. I wonder, does anyone recognise anyone in the photograph, and if so, perhaps we could arrive at a date and/or the venue that the photograph was taken? Also, do we know when W. Webb was a Pickwick member?

Yours ...Count Smaltork (Simon Martel)

[This was followed by the next item:](#)

Dear Mr Winkle

As a new member (although I have been attending PBC functions for more than 10 years as a guest), I found the myself trawling through eBay, & randomly searching "Pickwick"- and came across the sale of an original page from 'The Graphic' - which seems to have been a lifestyle type weekly publication (I believe it was in print from 1869-1932). Anyway, attached is a scan of the page showing a sketch of 'A Tour of the Pickwick Bicycle Club in France', with the annotation 'Mr Pickwick goes to France to a meeting in Beauvais', with the Cathedral in the background. The page is dated September 15th 1888 and on the reverse amongst other articles is a note of some cycle race results from the previous Saturday 8th September 1888.



THE GRAPHIC

Mr Pickwick goes to France in September 1888

(record), but it needs confirmation.
 CYCLING.—Several "Safety" records have been smashed since we last wrote. Otherwise the only noteworthy items are the victories of F. J. Osmond in the Ten Miles Scratch Race of the Surrey Bicycle Club, and of T. H. English in the Fifteen Miles Bicycle Championship, both on Saturday.

Cycle Race results from September 1888

I then got a bit carried away in my search, and noted that on the same day as the Pickwick Beauvais appeared in 'The Graphic' -the London Times reported another arrest in connection with 'The Whitechapel Murders' - aka the Jack the Ripper murders!! That puts the PBC into its historical timeline!!

Best Wishes....Count Smorltork

I can offer a partial response to Count Smorltork about the photo on pp24.....

Robert (Bob) Willis held the soubriquet of Joseph Smiggers from 1919-1931, and he was President in 1925.

Charles Willis, his son, was Prince Bladud from 1925 - 1939.

As for W.Webb, I will leave it to our most capable soubriquet historian, the current Joseph Smiggers to comment.....Editor

Mr Pickwick Goes to FranceReturns in 2022

Courtesy of The King of The Goblins precise organisation, a small gathering of members and guests left our shores to pursue the Tour de France once again. The King of the Goblins takes up the story.....

After a three year hiatus brought on by the Covid pandemic, the annual event bringing Club members and guests together as spectators of Le Tour de France was successfully reinstated after negotiating the problems of changing international travel restrictions and UK rail strikes. The first three stages of the 2022 race took place in Denmark before moving on to France. Stage 4 with its finish in Calais was the preferred target, but was ruled out with none but the most expensive hotels in the area available for a group booking.

The stage 5 start was from the centre of Lille, our next best option, so on Monday July 4th our, albeit smaller than usual group, met up in the St. Pancras Eurostar departure lounge. The group was made up of Alfred Jingle with family friend Alan Brown, Jackson with wife Jackie, and King of the Goblins with wife Celia.



Old Stock Exchange Lille



Dinner at La Paix

On arrival in Lille, we transferred to the Holiday Inn Express hotel, conveniently located just a 15 minute stroll from Le Grand Place, giving access to the old town with its many restaurants, bars, and shops. Lille is a beautiful city with much to recommend it including the Museum of Fine Arts rated second only to the Louvre and conveniently just around the corner from our hotel. It is worth noting that all museums in France are closed on Tuesdays. Unfortunately we didn't know this at the time, so missed out!

Regardless, the stay was enjoyable with highlights being great companionship, a sightseeing coach trip, exploring the old town, good food at a variety of restaurants, and finally, on our last day, an excellent view of the Le Tour caravan and rider parade. The latter with thanks to Google Street View allowing us to locate a restaurant in Le Grand Place on the route and grab a table at the road edge ahead of the crowds.



Tour Caravan



Riders in the Grand Place

With the fun over and no taxis available due to road closures for the race, we trekked the 1 kilometre with our rolling luggage to the station for the journey back to London where we said our goodbyes and travelled on to our homes.

Hopefully with life getting back to normal, next year will attract additional members to join in with this enjoyable event. Le Tour 2023 will start in Bilbao with day 3 ending somewhere as yet undefined in the French Basque country. The remainder of the route is expected to be published in October when we can look at options for an interesting trip.

Best Regards from **The King of The Goblins (Robin Simpson)**

Versace Dumkins has some news....

Gentlemen,

Thank you for your patience, we have finally sourced all the materials to manufacture another batch of Club blazers and waistcoats.

In the very near future your Club Secretary will email out an order form detailing the measurements and sizing that is required to order your garments.

Generally the sizing is based on Marks and Spenser suit sizing, so if you need to double check you will need to make a visit to the M&S changing room!

You will be required to complete the form and make your payment in advance (as per the instructions on the form)

Please note that these are made to order and to your size as specified, so if they do not fit, you will still be expected to pay for and keep what you ordered, as these are tailored items.

I have had a number of emails requesting jackets and waistcoats, PLEASE DO NOT ASSUME THAT THIS IS AN ACCEPTED ORDER, regardless of your conversations with me you will need to complete the form to place your order.(in the March magazine).

I look forward to welcoming more members into the "bumble bee club" as my partner Helen describes us!

Kind regards

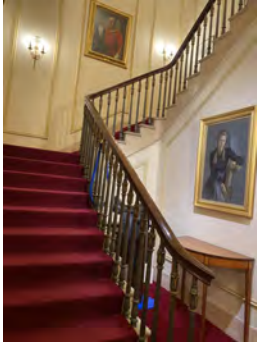
Dumkins
Club Vice-Captain



Display Model Only

Saddlers Hall Gutter Lane

Our Anniversary Black Tie dinner was held Saddlers Hall, one of London's magnificent Livery Companies, which has a history dating back over 600 years.

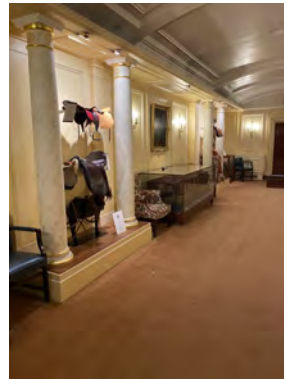


The Imposing staircase

The Worshipful Company of Saddlers, residents of the amazing venue for our Anniversary Dinner can be traced back to Anglo Saxon times. Originally a Guild, it was issued with a Royal Charter by Edward III in 1363, which meant the Company had the right to regulate the saddle making trade - and all saddlers within 2 miles of the City were subject to their regulations. The Company ranks 25th in the precedence of Livery Companies (based on the companies' economic or political power back in 1515)

The original Saddlers Hall dating back to the 14th Century, was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666, was bombed during the London Blitz of 1940, and as a result has been rebuilt several times. The Classical style of the Great Hall where we enjoyed our splendid Dinner, provided exactly what it states in their website - "an elegant backdrop" for all types of events and especially so for the Pickwick Bicycle Club. Big stained-glass windows, the silver display cases, and portraits of Past Company Masters, and of course the musicians' gallery, just added to the ambience of the evening.

We may have waited two additional years, and changed venue but, I think we all agree - it was worth it!



The wonderful Saddle Room

The Past President's Lunch took place at The George in Borough High St. on 14th June, for the first time in two years, and was chaired jointly by Mr Watty & Mr Winkle Snr. An excellent lunch and good conversation in Pickwickian style was enjoyed by a select band, comprising of - Thomas Groffin, Joseph Smiggers, Justice Stareleigh, Dr Payne, Bulman, Buzfuz, Mr Brooks accompanied by Mr Pott, Ben Allen, plus by special invitation, our President Mr Pickwick. and the two chairmen.

Unfortunately a number of PP's could not make it, and missed a very convivial lunch.

The Anniversary Ride - June 19th 2022

As mentioned already, your President reported that he was invited to participate in the Anniversary Ride in June, organised by new(ish) member Phil Saunders/The Marquis of Filoteville.



At The Downs Hotel Site

He continues the tale....."we met up at the Downs Hotel Hackney with fellow members, Mr Watty & Mr Gunter, both riding their Penny Farthings, along with eight invited guests, including three lady riders. There was a splendid variety of machines ranging from 130years old to modern power assisted bikes, as we readied ourselves for the 20 mile ride. Our journey took us through Hackney Marshes, the Olympic Park, and Victoria Park on our way to the Dickens Museum, seeing parts of London, I've only read about in the Dicken's books. Having made our presence known at the Museum, and supped copious amount of champagne in celebration, we adjourned to St. Paul's Churchyard for a picnic lunch, before turning our wheels north-east to retrace our route to the Downs Hotel site, and head home after a very enjoyable day. Thanks to the Marquis for his organisation of our ride."

It is Phil's intention to make this a regular event in the Club calendar and to make it something of a special occasion, starting with next year's ride which is planned to be on June25th. so watch out for details in the March 2023 magazine. As one of the organisers of the Hampton Court ride, I know how much effort goes into these events so please support him.....your President.



Watty at The George & Vulture

Eroica Britannia 2022? - just in case you're wondering what happened about this event, it was cancelled! A rather confusing message was sent out by the organisers that it was due to 'technical difficulties' with no real explanation, but there were also murmurings locally that entry numbers were quite poor. So we wait to find out if it will happen in 2023.

Dr Slammer sent in the following article about Frank Nisbet, a member of our Club back in 1875. He was known as The Pickwick 'crack' and a future 'flyer' for his unusual style and his powers of recovery after a race.

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CLUB "CRACKS."

No. III.—FRANK NISBET,

OF THE PICKWICK.

IN one of the first races he ever ran we "spotted" the now well-known Pickwick "crack" as a future flyer, not only from the style of his riding, but from the wonderfully fresh manner in which he pulled up after a race. Mr. Frank Nisbet, whose performances we have much pleasure in giving, is 21 years of age, 5 ft. 8½ in. in height, and weighs 9 st. 4 lb. On the 29th May, 1875, at the Alexandra Palace, he won the second heat in the One Mile Amateur Handicap, with 70 yards start, in 3 min. 47 sec.; and ran second to Kilburn, L.B.C., who had 130 yards, in the final. On June 26th, at Beckenham, he won his heat in the Three Miles Race, with 170 yards, but was unplaced in the final. On the 10th July, 1875, at the Surrey B.C. Meeting at the Oval, he won, by 5 yards, the third heat in the Four Miles Amateur Handicap, with 230 yards start, in 14 min. 29 sec., his opponent being H. Osborne, who had 90 yards start; but in the final he failed to get placed. On the 17th of the same month he again won his heat at the St. George's B.C. Meeting at Lillie Bridge, with 250 yards start, in 14 min. 20 sec., but unfortunately fell in the final. On the 14th August, 1875, at the Alexandra Palace, at the Pickwick Club Races, he ran third in his heat, with 300 yards start, and in the final he ran second to Taylerson, who started from scratch. On the 4th September, 1875, at the Oval, he, with 290 yards in the Four Miles Handicap, defeated T. G. Nevill, of the London (110 yards), in the first heat, and ran second to Noel Whiting, of the London (310 yards), by 5 yards in the final. Time 13 min 36½ sec. At the London Club Races, Five Miles Handicap, at Lillie Bridge on the 11th September, 1875, he defeated N. Whiting in the second heat, both having 250 yards start, and repeated his victory in the final by 10 yards. Time 16 min, 12 sec. At the Kildare Sports on the 18th of the same

month, and on the same course, he won his heat and the final in the Two Miles Handicap, from scratch, in 6 min, 45 sec. On the 2nd October, 1875, at the Oval, he won the second heat of the Four Miles Handicap with 160 yards start, and ran third in the final. At the Tuffnel Park Athletic Sports on the 16th of the same month he won the Four Miles Handicap from scratch in 14 min. 28 sec. ; and on the 25th, at the St. George's Meeting at Lillie Bridge ran second to Tyler in the Four Miles Handicap, having conceded the winner 180 yards. On the 20th November, 1875, he won his heat and the final in the Four Miles Handicap at the Agricultural Hall, from scratch, in 14 min, 52½ sec. In 1876, as he says, he has been handicapped out of it, but he ran second for the Amateur Championship, and managed to score the wonderful time of 6 min, 20 sec, for two miles at the Subscribers' Meeting at Lillie Bridge. We trust to see him again to the fore in 1877,

Thanks to Dr Slammer for uncovering yet another piece of the Club's early history.

Our industrious soubriquet historian, Joseph Smiggers has provided some information about this past Club member, and other members of the same name (family?)

Frank Nisbet (aka Gabriel Grubb) was indeed a member pre - 1881

There was a W.Nisbet C1879 (a brother perhaps?)

Then there was an A.Nisbet listed in 1924.

More up to date, there is currently Peter Nisbet (Jack Bramber) a member since 2015, but having been in contact with him, he is pretty certain that there are no family ties with Frank Nesbit. (sometimes the spelling of names become changed over so many years.

Don't Forget.....

Our Annual Garden Party is on the Thursday 1st December, so keep the date available to attend. Details will be sent out in due course by our Hon Secretary.

Sgt Buzfuz Farewell Lunch @ The George

A significant lunch took place at The George in Borough High St, London on Tuesday September 6th. to bid farewell to our illustrious Hon Sec. Stephen Downham or better known to most as Sgt. Buzfuz.



Jack Martin, Sgt Buzfuz & Samkin,
the three holders of the Honorary Life
Member Medal

Twelve members, of Past Presidents and officers gathered to say adieu to our long serving (or should that be suffering?) Hon. Sec. as he becomes a retired member prior to his departure to Australia. As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, Buzfuz has carried out his role with aplomb and been the hub of the Pickwick Bicycle Club since 1998. Regardless of the situation or issue, he seemed to always have an answer or solution, thus ensuring that our Club maintained seamless continuity.

There were plenty of memories talked about over lunch, with everyone having their own stories, especially about the many occasions of Club luncheons, when perhaps the after dinner speaker was either exceptionally good or disappointingly poor. The latter didn't occur too often.

Buzfuz talked about his visit to Buckingham Palace with the Dickens family and how interested the Royal family were in the link with our Club. There were also other tales of his activities as Hon Sec of the Club. Time passed so quickly but not before it was decided that the three holders of the Honorary Life Member Medal should be photographed for posterity. Then Winkle Snr presented him with a copy of Dickens & Travel inscribed by Lucinda Hawksley, the great, great, great granddaughter of Charles Dickens. Mr Watty then announced that a Club blazer was being made and would be given to Buzfuz before he left the UK. Final goodbyes were said, and the lunch was over.



Winkle Snr hands Sgt Buzfuz
a parting gift

Just as the draft magazine was completed, the extremely sad news came about the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Therefore this page has been changed in order to make our own reflection of her historic reign of seventy years.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 1926 -2022

HM Queen Elizabeth II has been the bedrock of the nation for most of our lifetimes, conducting her reign with integrity, empathy, and acquitting herself in accordance with her promise to the nation when she first became Queen. For most of us it seemed that she was immortal, but, sadly she was only human and now we mourn her passing.

We have performed the loyal toast at all of our luncheons and so, on behalf of the Pickwick Bicycle Club, we thank you Ma'am for serving us so well.



So life will no doubt change with our new King Charles III, and we too will change our loyal toast at future luncheons.

GOD SAVE THE KING

Your President received the letter below from one of our Chelsea Pensioner guests following their invitation to our Black Tie Dinner in February.



In Pensioner Peter Turner
LW3 B7 Royal Hospital Chelsea
Royal Hospital Road
London SW3 4SR

Roger Hitchman
77-79 High Street
Hampton Hill
Middlesex. TW12 1NH

Mr Pickwick

Sir, I am writing to thank you for allowing us to attend and take part in the Bicycle Clubs 150th anniversary celebration dinner. It was an honour for Dewi and myself to take part. Please thank the members and officers of the club for us for entertains us for the evening, I look forward to the next President luncheon and I hope that I will be able to attend again. If you and the your officers would like to visit us here at the Royal Hospital please do not hesitate to get in touch so that it can be arranged.

Yours sincerely

PT Peter Turner
Chelsea Pensioner.



Royal Hospital Chelsea, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4SR
T 020 7881 5200 E info@chelsea-pensioners.co.uk

We always enjoy the company of our friends from the Chelsea Hospital, as much as they enjoy our luncheons. They are 'part of our family' nowadays.