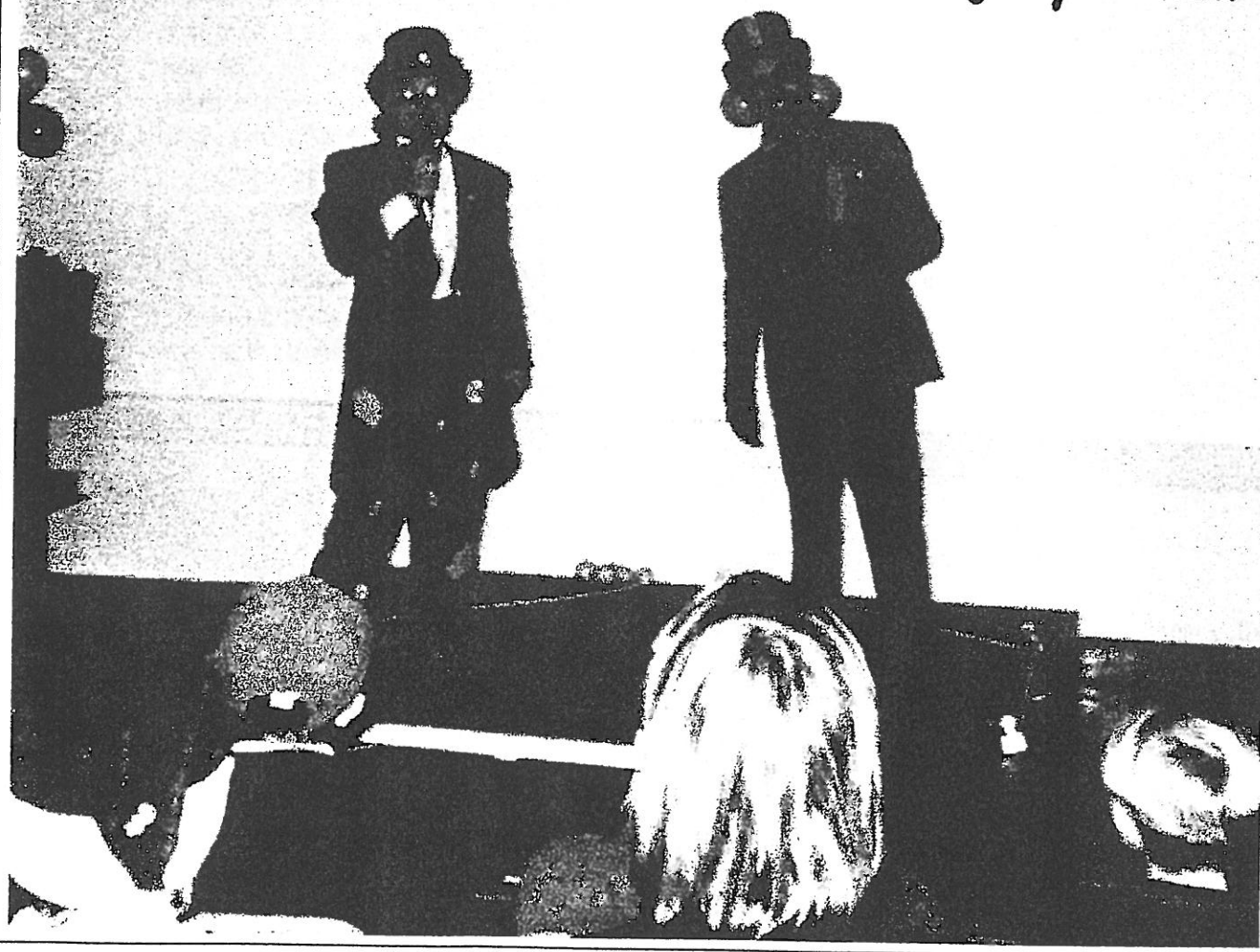


TWYJC NEWSLETTER

January '99

"See now as Kevin "Fletcher inflates two balloons using only his ears!!!"



Edited by Jon Relf

Well Christmas is over for another year, I hope that everyone got what they wanted and has not drunk in excess too much. Yes Bryn, it is possible.

I thought that it was just a myth but I actually received not 1, not 2 but **3 pairs of socks** this year!! It has finally happened. I'm old.

Never mind, I've finally finished Cora's book and I've managed to complete Populous III, which means that I don't have any distractions and I might just get this thing ready in time if I sit down and work at it. Oh the pressure! Oh the stress!

Welcome to the first newsletter under the new editor. I, Jon Relf, being of sound mind and body do hereby take over the responsibility of keeping the club informed of upcoming events, decisions made by the committee regarding the running of the club and anything else that anyone can think of. Dave A. and Cora Hallett have done a great job of producing almost all of the club's previous publications. I think they both deserve big thanks from everyone and I hope that I have relieved them of a little bit of hassle!

If I don't offend too many people with this edition I may just end up typing out the next edition too, so I would really appreciate any feedback or ideas for features that you would like to see in future newsletters. Any contributions of articles, photographs, cartoons, jokes or anything else will be gratefully received although there will be no guarantee that everything will be

published (see 'rules and regulations for submissions to the newsletter'). All contributions will be returned to the owner in pretty much the same condition in which it was received.

Rules and Regulations for Submissions to the Newsletter

I think that Kevin and Dave were a little worried about letting me loose on the keyboard as every one of my articles that I have written for earlier editions have been heavily censored and edited. No one has any need to panic, I know that there are a lot of young children at the club and I do have a tiny shred of responsibility in me. Therefore I have devised a short list of points which all articles in my publications will adhere to:

- 1 No swearing unless it is absolutely essential to the article.
- 2 No dirty jokes unless they are very funny.
- 3 No offensive or condescending remarks about the editor.
- 4 No nude pictures of Kevin under any circumstances.

Please note all rules are subject to change at the editor's discretion.

(Basically all adults will need to read very carefully, as all innuendo will be exceptionally subtle.)

Jon

Something to sell?
Something you've always wanted?
Something you want to tell the
world?



This is the place to do it. Free ad space available, contact Jon for info on the latest advertising rates.

Greetings

Hello to Mr Danny Colyer who will be sent a copy of this newsletter so that he knows what he is missing out on. As you are now unable to attend the finest juggling club in the country I have democratically kicked you off of the committee, so there!

Serious Stuff

This section is actually the main reason why we have a newsletter; everything else is just me filling up the space by shooting off at mad tangents.

The Magnificent Seven (and Dave & Kevin)

The committee is made up of the following wonderful people. We are responsible for the running of the club, everything that goes right is down to us and anything that goes wrong is always due to circumstances beyond our control.

Chair person
Dave Akhurst

Treasurer/secretary

Kevin Fletcher

Honorary President

Mike Bonfield

Committee members:

Pete Curran	Dave Leech
Mark Greasley	Keith Parks
Cora Hallett	Jon Relf
Dave Kinder	

Committee meetings take place every now and then to discuss ideas and decisions that need to be made.

Money, money, money

Financially the club is doing quite well; we have enough in the club bank account to keep us happy for a while. The club account is boosted by the annual membership and weekly entrance fees and also from fees charged to organisations that book the club to perform at their events. The money is used to hire the hall each week, pay for Public Performers Liability Insurance, which covers the club for any injuries that we may cause to any innocent bystanders (naming no Marks, I mean names) and to buy new equipment for everyone to use.

That rather good night out to see Gerry Cottle's Circus was paid for by club funds as a reward for everyone's hard work at the Royal Tunbridge Wells Juggling Festival. How many of you went to the circus and weren't even at the festival? Shame on you! It doesn't matter if you weren't there; it was burning a hole in the club's proverbial pocket anyway.

The club is looking into getting a grant to purchase a video camera plus accessories at a cost of just over £900 (which is why we want someone else to pay for it). This will be used for filming the club at any events that we perform at, the Christmas show and anything else we can think of. The footage we shoot may be used to promote the club; so start practising, fame and fortune are just around the corner!

Buying a free standing ladder and a set of silicone bouncing balls is also up for consideration. If there is anything that you think the club could do with just tell your idea to a member of the committee (there's a list of names at the start of this section) and we will dismiss it. Sorry, discuss it.

Unfortunately, this past year we have not been able to cover the cost of the hall on several occasions and money has had to come out of the club account to make up the difference.

Because of this the committee has regrettably had to make the decision to increase the price of annual membership. A year's membership will now cost a still absurdly cheap £6 for adults, and an equally bargain like price of £4 for children. The TWJC definition of an adult is anyone over the age of 16 by the way. You're still a child then Jacqui.

So please make sure you keep your membership fee up to date (which should be really easy as everyone's is now due on the same date, which is the 1st of January if you've already forgotten), come along as often as you can and why not bring your friends along?

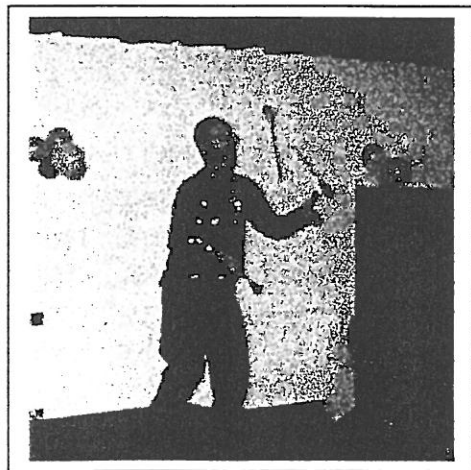
TWJC does it again! **(Isn't it about time we stopped?)**

The last Tuesday before Christmas was blessed with the honour of coinciding with the legendary TWJC Christmas Show Spectacular!!

It was very nice to see so many new faces come along to support the club and witness a breath-takingly astounding show. Well what can you expect for just a quid?

I have been accused of being very verbose in my recollections, although only by people who have been charged with their transcription. I am not a laconic person; terse accounts are not a speciality of mine but what follows is my attempt at a brief review of the Christmas Show.

Steve Clark was given the duty of being the master of ceremonies, introducing all the acts and telling the obligatory very poor jokes. I have been a regular at TWJC for 5 years now and I am beginning to doubt whether good jokes actually exist.

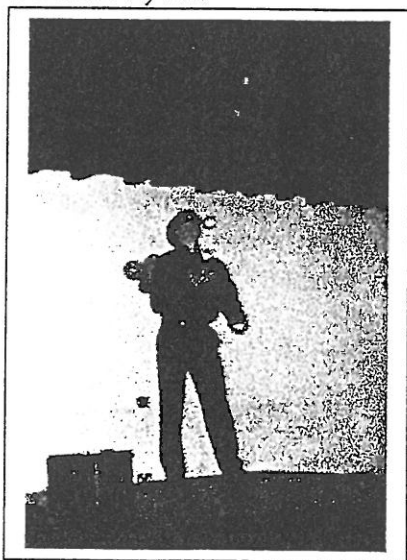


I had forgotten that Mark actually did some fine tap dancing while he juggled the spoons until I saw the photo.

The first mug to take to the stage and perform was **Mark Greasley** who put on a fine display of how to manipulate some very tricky household objects. Juggling with fruit and some wooden spoons. He also showed no mercy to his umbrella bashing it around the stage like a man possessed and then doing the same to a cucumber. Any suggestions for what else you would like Mark to do with the cucumber may be submitted to the committee and we will do our best to see that he at least has a go.

The second 'act' was by me (that is **Jon Relf**, sorry I want my name in bold too). I had a go at pulling off some far too difficult five-ball tricks. I must apologise for being too over ambitious and I promise I'll never do it again. Although anyone that tries to deny that my tricks weren't impressive, will know that my name is the Lord when I lay my fingers upon the.

A rare moment when I actually had all 5 balls on the go. If you only saw the photo you'd think I was quite good wouldn't you?



The impeccably (and of course very pinkly) turned out **Kevin Fletcher** risked his own life, the audience, the whole Camden centre and his insurance premium in the pursuit of entertainment with a stunning fire eating/sucking routine.

KIDS MUST NOT TRY THIS AT HOME!!!

(At least don't say that you saw Kevin doing it when you're lying in hospital or when the fire engine turns up.)

Dave Akhurst was then allowed his star turn on the TWJC stage. He did a nice rope trick. I did have much more to say about that, unfortunately it had to be deleted because it was in breach of Regulation # 2. Dave's unique bald headed character **Dr G.Iggles** made a shrunken appearance to install a useful plumbing system through a volunteer. That ukulele also made an appearance but was heckled off stage before a note was played!

For me the star of the show was **Young Joe** who put the veteran magicians of the club to shame with a brilliantly presented act. I think that we definitely have a star of the future and I also think we should start calling him Joe Joseph. Maybe next year his mum will allow herself to be chopped in half!

Next up was the return of the compere **Steve Clark** who continued the magic with some disappearing boxes, lots of magic wands (what a 'wand'erful trick, sorry it does get to you after a while) and even more terrible puns.

Joe's brother **Michael** performed the almost final act. After he

produced the knife from apparently nowhere and announced that he was going to do some knife throwing I honestly thought that someone was going to get killed. But I didn't count on the knife being a very special knife. I saw Michael throw the knife at his assistant, but where did it go? He will almost certainly be a future star of Crime Watch.

And so the curtain had to fall on someone and the last last act (to use the gladiator vernacular) was the very darkly dressed **UV Pirates**, aka **Kim, Bryn, Dave** and also (although I didn't know this until that evening) **me**. Obviously I don't actually know how it looked because I was on stage at the time but it felt all right and I think that Kim's tennis ball gadgets look fantastic. From where I was juggling I thought that the audience looked absolutely stunning, lots of UV sensitive clothing glowed in the ultra violet field and looked very pretty.



This is what happens when you use flash photography to capture a moment in a UV show. People in stupid poses looking odd. I would like to point out that I am in the picture so it wasn't me who took it.

We may not be at the cutting edge of international circus/cabaret performance but I really enjoyed it. Thank you to all of you who came along and a very big thank you to everyone that got their act together and got an act together, you make the show what it is. I'm not sure whether or not that is something to be proud of?

There we go only 824 words, that wasn't too bad was it?

Oh, before I forget we made £21.70 on the raffle (so who only paid 10p for a ticket then?) Thank god Bryn won the bottle of scotch, I'm glad that someone's Christmas wish came true!

That makes 863 words then.

Glory Hunter!

Congratulations to **Pete Curran** who won the Christmas TWJC lifetime achievement award. Pete has been a hard-core member (Pete is into hard-core stuff)* of our juggling club for longer than I can remember. He has supported the club at every opportunity and regularly turns out to perform at the events we support, so much so he is now a recognised face at many of our displays.

Pete decided to keep his beautifully crafted trophy in his back pocket for a while where it had a habit of falling out and flashing in front of people's eyes.

* Subtle.



First Contact Made with Alien Life!



The first internationally acknowledged meeting with extra terrestrial life took place at the Pippins Farm Fete in Pembury.

They landed their large saucer shaped craft in a field adjacent to the site of the event, which was being held in aid of the Hospice in the Weald.

Witnesses to the historic incident have all been taken to a secret location where they are being questioned about what happened. Many are also receiving psychiatric guidance to help them come to terms with their experience.

The government is not trying to cover up the alien landing as might have been expected and instead are issuing regular reports on the findings from the team of scientists working on the occurrence.

These reports state that the beings announced themselves as being

from Mintaka, a planet in the Orion Trinary system. They offered world peace, a renewable clean energy source and an end to poverty, starvation and disease.

Unfortunately Mr Mark Greasley of TWJC misunderstood the situation and chased the aliens away with a plate spinning stick.

Thanks a lot Mark.

Stop Press!! Last minute article needs to be written!

Yesterday (which to me was Wednesday the 30th of December) I happened to be in Tunbridge Wells with my folks for the last day of The Winter Festival, and it was carnival day!

I was walking through the precinct when I saw a large crowd, I went to have a look and saw that the people were watching Dave's flatmate Tom dancing like a madman to the sound of **The Carnival Collective**. I watched Tom for a while before turning my attention to the troupe of drummers and percussionists from Brighton. They were amazing, fantastic Samba music (I think, I never paid much attention in music class) with real energy that created a great atmosphere both in the street and especially in the parade.

I also had the pleasure of getting some more 'hands-on' experience of **Chameleon**; a comedy juggling and (very) slack rope balancing duo made up of Dave and Douglas. I thought that they were really good, their routine had a great variety of things going on ball spinning, hat manipulation, ballet

and lots more. My favourite was the bit with the spoons illustrating the concept of perspective. I'm afraid that you'll have to ask me about it, as I just don't have the space to explain.

I was enlisted for the grand finale (Oooooooooohhhhhhhh yyyeeeeeeeeeeeeesssssssssssss!), which saw Dave and Douglas passing fire clubs with one on the rope and one on a box. I was a member of 2 teams of 4 who had to hold the rope as tight as possible across 2 'A' frames. Unfortunately 2 people from my team decided to just leave and the guy behind me thought that it would be really helpful to just hold the rope up in the air. God that guy was heavy.

Another volunteer was plucked from the audience and was none other than Mr Pete Curran who had to hoist the guy up onto the rope.

They were both excellent at the comic patter, which kept people watching, and they could keep it going for ages, much to the torture of my arms.

My Mum's favourite was **Bris de Banane** another comedy juggling duo from France. Everything that they did was so simple and well within the capabilities of many people in the club, but what made it special was the characters of the performers.

Everything was done in silence, one guy was very serious and did most of the tricks while the other guy provided the humour with his shuffling walk, childlike interest with his sappy eyes and his extreme terror at stepping up onto the first few steps of his ladder.

The evening saw the parade down Mount Pleasant to Calverly

Grounds. The procession was made up of several towering costumes from **Mahogany** and huge lanterns from **Red Earth** as well as several smaller ones made by kids in the workshops that were held during the day.

Carnival Collective and **Inner Sense** provided the carnival sounds and loads of atmosphere. I was most impressed with the furry dressing gowns, hats and handbags of the stilt walkers from **Pear Shaped**. They had loads of character and bags of skill dancing around (with my Mum). They really mixed well with the crowd and were easily some of the most popular performers there.

It was a really good event. So where were you all? I was there, Pete was there and Mark's wife was there (Mark was at home playing with his toys).

Maybe next year we could get involved, it would be great advertising for the club and we certainly have the talent.

Well that's all folks.

On a personal note I would appreciate it if people could fill out the following questionnaire and return the slip to me.

Should I get my hair cut?

Yes, shave it all off, I think bald is very sexy.

No, grow it long like Kim's.

Don't know. I lack the mental capacity to form a basic opinion.

Thank you.

The End