

RTWJC newsletter

January 2000
Edited by Jon Relf

We Made It!!!

Here we are in the year 2000 & we're still alive! The long prophesized global annihilation failed to occur, what an anti-climax! Does it feel any different? Of course not!

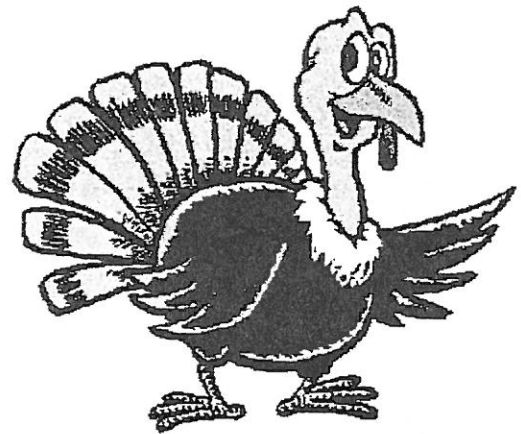
Now that we are in the 21st century surely it is time to do away with this ancient medium called print & focus on a modern form of communication? If you don't already know that the club has a website (<http://www.twjc.co.uk>) then you obviously haven't been around me very much.

I am still looking for fact files & photographs of members to publish so if you have anything then please give it to me & I'll get it on line.

Jon



Thankyou to Dave A. for sorting out the bug in the Tunbidge Wells Borough Council logo for me.



The RTWJC Xmas Turkey

I know I briefly explained what was going on when I was on stage at the Christmas show but I thought I'd say it again, only with more words.

It all seemed such a good idea at the time. A while ago Mark, Cora & myself were talking about the Christmas show & we all thought that it needed something special, a theme that we could use each year. We started to think really hard but gave up soon afterwards & settled for:

The RTWJC Christmas Turkey!

This is the name of a very special act. Each year there will be a **Chosen One**. The Chosen One will be selected at random* by the previous year's Chosen One. Three random* members of the committee will each choose a single item & they will be given to the Chosen One a month or two before the Christmas show. The Chosen

One must come up with an act full of high quality material for the show using the three objects.

* When I say 'random' I don't actually mean it.

Obviously this is a very difficult task. It seems that most people at TWJC can't come up with any quality material when they choose their own objects! The other problem for the Chosen One is the fact that the only limitations for the choice of the objects are:

1. The object must fit into the hall.
2. The object must not pose a threat to the audience (a threat to the Chosen One is acceptable).
3. The object must not show rudimentary signs of intelligence.

The three prop suppliers must also be aware that the Chosen One is under no obligation to return any object in one piece if at all.

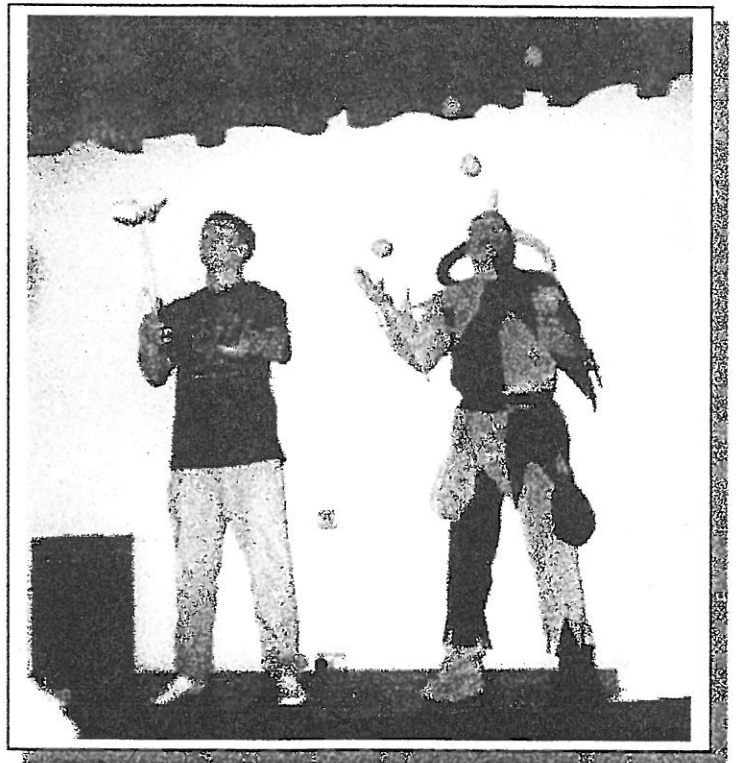
The Show in a paragraph!

(Albeit a long one)

First on stage was regular performer **Steve Clark** opening the show with disappearing canes, appearing silks & juggling with a club, a ball & a ring. The second act was **yours truly** making a bold leap into the unknown (if I had known I wouldn't have bothered) with the Turkey. I hereby claim to be the world champion coat hanger, ghost tube & fish juggler! I was followed by **Tarquin** (aka **Kevin**) the pink & black jester with detachable horns. After a bit of three & a bit of five balls he used a snooker cue to spin a triangle with a glass of water balanced on one of the three sides without spilling a drop...well not until it was over the audience naturally! Next up

was young **Anthony** performing with spinning plates with lots of throws & spins. Definitely nice to see the youngsters on stage. Then **Dave & Cora** came on to perform a routine based on the shell game using each other's heads! I couldn't believe it the first time! The show was closed by **Kim & Dave** aka The **UV Pirates** performing lovely glow in the dark club swingy stuff. A special mention must go to **Helen** for using flash photography during their act...doh!

Lifted straight from the website I know.

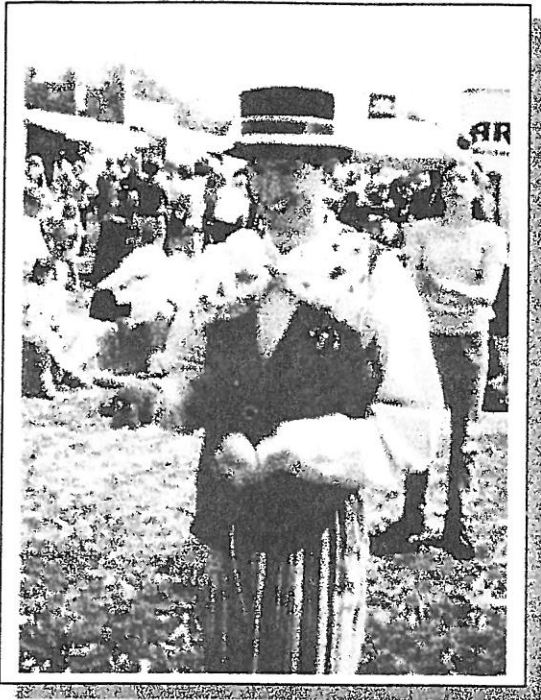


Someone is about to get a slap!

Trophy Cabinet Wanted

Congratulations to **Steve Clark**, who picked up the **outstanding achievement award** for his dedication & commitment to the club. Steve attends every single fete, display & carnival on behalf of the club & never fails to perform at the Christmas & Summer Shows.

Steve has already won trophies for his close up magic skills & devotion to the Kent Magicians Guild.



Steve at the Tonbridge Flower show. The place where he trashed a stall with his monkey puppet!

The Winter Street Festival

The Tunbridge Wells Winter Festival brings street entertainment to the town & provides a great escape from the aftermath of Christmas.

Despite a lack of jugglers there was a whole host of interesting characters on offer. During the 2 days out of 4 for which I was in attendance I was impressed by stunning acrobatics, acrobalance, hat juggling & energetic dance from the **Black Eagles**. They performed some spectacular three-person balances, lots of tumbling on a difficult surface & the hoop routine made famous by the Chinese State Circus.

I watched the bizarre courting & mating rituals of 2 giant tortoise courtesy of **Electric Chairs for Teddy Bears**; the

fluffy bunny taking revenge on the evil hand stole the show though.

Mike Martins entertained with his escapology & witty banter, a true street act. After being handcuffed, fitted with a tight sack & wrapped in chains he paid tribute to Michael Flatley & then managed to struggle free in less than two minutes. After the handcuffs were locked his female volunteer from the audience was asked to check his pockets for a key. "If you find anything just whip it out!" Made me chuckle.

The Explorers were on hand in full arctic gear to provide comedy & claim the town for the empire whilst continuing their search for Lord Oates. Every now & then they'd stop & discuss such things like whether it was really necessary to start dragging the sleds from central London & why a piano was absolutely essential to the mission.



*"I think I've lost another toe sir."
"How many is that now?"
"Thirteen I think sir."*

I was almost mowed down by the superb smoking automobile that could've come straight from The Munsters, sadly though I don't have the name of the driver. The same character also appeared on stilts & had an amusing encounter with the surreal creature created by **Boa Yoa**.



Boa Yoa tries to make a friend.

The highly skilled stilt walkers of **Pearshaped** were back again this year & were a lot of fun. The sight of the 4 furry Cossacks & the group of phallic horned aliens spontaneously breaking into dance was superb.

The band that got them all moving was **The Carnival Collective** also back for another year. The troupe drew a huge crowd in weather conditions that few would even bother performing in.

The festival was finished off with a grand procession featuring most of the performers, impressive costumes from **Mahogany** & glowing lanterns from **Red Earth** down Mount Pleasant to a spectacular firework display in the Calverly Grounds.

Millenium Bug Watch

Taken from letters to New Scientist.

“My wife and I recently enjoyed a jar of mayonnaise, which was marked: ‘best when purchased before March, 1900.’ It tasted just fine to us, but we wondered how thoroughly delicious it would have been had we bought it a hundred years ago.”

Elsewhere, eagerness to demonstrate Y2K compliance is getting out of hand. The American arm of the Japanese company Sanyo has a website detailing its products. One of these is a simple plastic breadboard. Below the picture of the bread board there is a box with the legend: ‘This product is Y2K compliant.’ (The legend has since been removed; so far reports of breadboards not working this millenium have yet to surface.)

Spare a thought for reader Gary Bates' grandmother. She told him recently that she was worried about, “This millenium bug.” He was puzzled because his gran is 76 years old and does not know much about computers. He asked why and she said, “It's in all the papers and on TV. They're warning everyone about it. What if I catch it and get taken ill?” We are glad to report that he was able to reassure her there is no nasty bug going round which is intelligent enough to know the date and is waiting to strike people down at midnight on 31 December.