

THE WHEELING WORLD

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THE WHEELING WORLD.

A Weekly Survey.

DICK TURPIN'S RANDOM RECORDS.

Cornwall in Sussex.

MOST Cornish villages are in Cornwall, I understand, but one at least may be found in Sussex. At any rate a brother Excelsiorite, who knows his Cornwall, says the quaint little fishing village of Bosham would readily pass as a bit of Cornwall. It certainly did not look like Sussex when we invaded it one day last week, although it has been in the county over a thousand years.

About five miles west of Chichester we turned to the left, and a few dozen kicks of the pedal showed us Bosham basking in the sun, and comfortably nestling close to the water's edge. For though Bosham is not on the open coast, the sea has penetrated inland a few miles, and Bosham and the sea take a great interest in each other.

It was evident to us from the number of boats we saw, and from the style of dress in vogue amongst the inhabitants, that most of Bosham's sons are fishermen; and outside many of the houses were to be seen little grass plots which evidently served as imaginary decks to retired Bosham skippers, who had erected neat, white-painted masts, complete with yard-arms and riggings.

Like the general run of wheelmen we feel interested in whatever such old-fashioned places may have to show us, so on this occasion we decided to roam along the shallow beach which lies between the waters of Bosham Channel and the odd-looking steps and patches of sea wall bordering the gardens and houses of Bosham.

We came across an old water mill, said to be one of eight such mills which the Domesday Book shows to have been hereabouts in Norman times. Needless to say the other seven are no more. Water mills cannot last for ever, even in Bosham!

It is said that Earl Godwin had a Castle here

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It is said that Earl Godwin had a Castle here in Saxon times, and a mound is pointed out as its site.

The Church is perhaps the chief item of interest in Bosham. Builders were restoring a large portion of the roof at the time of our visit, and one's fancy could picture the Saxon forefathers as they placed the huge slabs of stone in place a thousand years ago.

For the Church claims to be of Saxon origin, although a Bayeux tapestry inside the edifice shows the Bosham Church of that time without a tower. But ladies were ever ladies, and even those who worked tapestries did not always trouble themselves over accuracy in details.

And the Conqueror "Came Over"!

The tapestry in question depicts Harold invoking a blessing upon his visit to Normandy just before setting out; for it was from little Bosham that the Royal Saxon sailed on the journey which culminated in the coming of William the Conqueror.

Danish raiders carried off the first peal of bells which the Church possessed, but the weight of metal sank their vessel. Now when the present peal is rung there is an answering peal heard faintly in the distance.

Local legend maintains that it comes from the bells which are now in the bed of the ocean; unromantic people attribute it to an echo effect produced by the Itchenor Woods. But Bosham clings to legend and tradition, and as we rode away we could not imagine a more suitable home for it.

One Excelsiorite—of course it was the veteran Sam Clark!—was enthusiastic enough to cycle up to the Crystal Palace and help to swell the fifteen thousand spectators who watched the sport at *Cycling's* meeting on Saturday.

Sam was on his new "speed-iron" with triple

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Sam was on his new "speed-iron" with triple armed handle-bars. He found the heavy head wind provide him with plenty of collar work, and pedalled down Washington Bostel and Piets Hill, two descents both of whose gradients are usually sufficient to demand the checking influences of either back-peddalling or a brake.

At Faygate Sam got some of the rain Sussex roads need so badly, and through Reigate and Sutton the mud in places, Sam estimates, was two inches deep! However, about four hours brought the Veteran Champion of Sussex and his once spick and span machine, both very travel-stained, to the Crystal Palace.

Kramer, winner of many American Championships, was the draw of the meeting. He was competing with German, Dutch, and French riders in an International Match, winning two and being second in the third race of the series. Being disqualified for cutting in, he only came third on points; Germany and Holland, in the persons of Mayer and Schilling, sharing the victory.

Another Excelsiorite, E. Baruch Blaker, was among the competitors in the motor cycle race. Having to start on a steeply banked portion of the track, the sloping surface caused him to lose some seconds. Seeing that the race was run at a speed of over forty-six miles an hour, a few seconds were important, and no prize came to Worthing.

News of the Horsham Club runs must nearly turn Captain Tree and Captain Collings green with envy! Horsham's first run of the season brought out a master of fifty-seven; last week the members went three better, and made round figures, their run including Crawley and Handcross, a district which is looking exceptionally pretty just now as one or two Excelsiorites can vouch.

Our Athletic Chairman.

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Chairman Young was out for a spin a day or two back, and after a run to Brighton was returning through Steyning and Washington when his free-wheel developed extra freedom. It was so free, in fact, that it worked either forward or backward. Pedalling was not rewarded with progress.

But Chairman Young did not lose his presence of mind. He remembered that the Excelsior Club included pedestrians in its ranks. So he walked home!

Two or three miles nearer home some of the Club's speed walkers were doing heel-and-toe work at the same time. They were not overtaken by the new recruit!

Another member of the Club had a "free-wheel both ways" a couple of years back. He was far from home—the other side of Dorking. But he did not join the walkers.

The end of a tow-line, with an industrious fellow-Clubman at its beginning, satisfied him!

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