

Bird's eye view



Winter 2013
edition

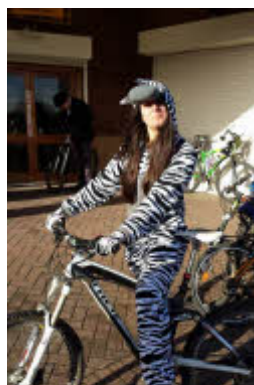
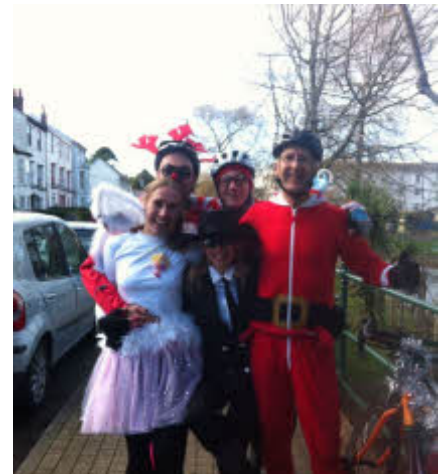
IT's Christmas!!! The official start to Christmas was celebrated with the annual TVPB Christmas Bash fancy dress cycle. It was held at the Starcross Fishing and Cruising club. It was a lavish event which included a short bike ride around the local area, with the cycling aim of bringing cheer and goodwill to all.



This they certainly did, the town was again "subjected" to the cords of the TVPB choir dressed in a multitude of costumes and well lubricated with the "spirit of Christmas" and mince pies!. Afterwards the partying continued back at base, with the troops enjoying a great Christmas dinner washed down with plenty



of liquid lubrication. As can be seen by the pictures fun and festivity was had by all. It is great to see all branches of the bash including the "Green badgers off road platoon", the "Farts home guards", "road riders on road platoon" and the "foot brigade" coming together and celebrating the festive period together. A big thank-you to Pottsie and his "little team of helpers" for again making it a very successful Christmas bash.



Bothways and Always get Romantic in Germany - the pair boarded a plane in late October with bikes, saddle bags, their trusty Garmin and the Romantic Route guide book in hand. Their aim was to cycle the romantic route, a 260 mile traffic free route from Wurzburg to Fussen, which meanders through the stunning countryside of the southern province of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg culminating at the amazing Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau Castles at the base of the alps. Having meticulously



planned their route (!) they landed at Munich airport, after putting their bikes

back together in the airport foyer they cycled to their first booked accommodation. Over the next 10 days, the couple cycled a 530 mile loop from Munich taking them to the start of the route (Wurzburg), along the route to Fussen, then returning back to Munich airport. The cycling was great, it was mainly on gently undulating cycle routes with the occasional hill for light entertainment. The route itself was well sign posted (it could have been completed without a route book), however there was so many different cycle route signs when navigating off the set route it did become confusing at times!. The main difference they found between cycling in Germany and Britain is that the Germans seem to like cyclists !! With cars stopping and giving way to cyclists at all junctions if no cycle route was available, which was not often, the car

drivers would not move until the bike had moved first - this took a lot of time to get used to! They did have to battle through the coldest seasonal weather temperatures that Germany had experienced for years, daily temperatures ranging from 0.9° up to 24°, rain, sleet and snow requiring the purchase of longs, woolly gloves and hats to keep warm! The main mechanical was a broken rear wheel after Always hit a German "pothole" (similar size to a crater!!), he ended up cycling (very gingerly) for the next 2 Day's (approximately 80



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miles) until a bike shop was found that was actually open and had a suitable rear wheel to fit the bike. This was the only 1 in the shop and so old they had to look on the Internet for a price! The Romantic route was a great cycle, it had amazing scenery with many points of interest on route, the time taken to complete it could easily have been extended. There was plenty of



“watering holes” on route supplying a variety of German beers and interesting local cuisine, with the Neu-



schwanstein castle being the perfect climax at the end of the long cycle. A visit to this castle is a must - 2 days allowed time to cycle up to the castle, to look round the outside (it was amusing seeing the bemused look on peoples faces as we cycled passed them whilst they walked up the mountain!)

and explore inside both castles with a trip down the mountain in a horse and cart.

The best view of the castles was whilst relaxing at the Ludwig spa floating in the “textile free” warm outdoor spa surrounded by the snow capped alps. This is an ideal cycling route even for the knitting and sewing group as it comes with a bus route that can be pre booked to take bikes so cycling can be kept to a minimum! With many drop off points outside the local establishments!!!



Eldest Basher defects to opposition: The news that our eldest basher has defected to another cycling group has shocked many bash members. Not Rubber, our most senior (in age not in rank) basher was absent without leave from the TVPB’s prestigious Christmas bash. Concerned with his unusual absence Spiderman immediately phoned to check his whereabouts, health and continual existence!. When he eventually answered, although breathless he sounded in very good health and spirits! Further questioning revealed he was enjoying the South Hams Christmas bash. Once initial shock of his defection had subsided, Pottsie had to know why?. Further investigation revealed the use of Alcohol, food and women to entice him to the “other side” The opposition it appears deployed its large contingency of younger ladies with “wiggling bottoms” to cycle in front of Not Rubber up steep hills during a joint ride in Brixham. This provided not rubber with the massive stimulation he required to help him ride up to new heights allowing him to reach the summit at speeds he had not managed in years whilst still being able to speak at the end!

Campervan Cash Funds located: Bash finances have always been a concern, with questions being asked as to how Bash commanders fund their “high driving” ever enlarging campervan life styles from their meagre OAP pension funds during these difficult financial times. The inland revenue have scrutinised Sticky dicky’s accounts on many occasions looking for evidence of any money laundering or unexplained transfers to “off shore” bank accounts, but each time no faults can be found. Recently an uncovered lead has led our investigators to the dubious red light district of Holland, where it suggests 2 of our most respectable senior officers are secretly running establishments of disrepute to fund their lifestyles, under the clever disguise of legitimate gentleman's shops. We found these 2 “legitimate” looking shops locat-



ed at the end of the,main “strip” with very familiar looking names. On talking to the employees, (who were mainly dressed in leather), they denied any illegal activities. No one had seen or knew who owned the premises or where they lived. All communication was via unnamed email’s and a mailbox located somewhere in the South-west of England!

The mystery of the missing Turkey: Bedpig has had her Christmas Turkey stolen. She remembers buying a fresh young bird from the butchers, taking it home and getting it ready for a good stuffing. She prepared the stuffing mix, turned round to get the turkey and it was gone! - “I only left the bird for a minute” she said “and then

it was gone, the intruder must have had lightening speed and

was as silent as a mouse because I never heard a thing”.

Bedpig has searched the house high and low for the missing Turkey with no luck. “I know Pottsie wouldn't have moved it because he never goes into the kitchen” she said with a look of relief. Police have released this mug shot of a suspect they wish to question in relation to this crime. Until caught their advice is to lock up your turkeys to avoid Christmas dinner disappointment!!



Bashers that are crashers: Blaster has yet again given his “crash test dummy” services in the name of helmet testing, by crushing yet another helmet whilst negotiating a roundabout at high speed. Its unsure if the accident was caused by the autumn road conditions or he had a “spec saver” moment not seeing the raised round circle in the middle of the road! We are glad to report that yet again he walked away with minor damages with no obvious change to his usual mental abilities!!! Faggots from the famous “green badger brigade” came to grief whilst attempting a large “gap jump” recently when he lost control of the bike on landing, sustaining a broken collar bone to match the other side he did on a previous jump! Is it time to start reducing the size of the gap? Bothways came a cropper whilst on holiday in Burnley, she was happily cycling along a cycle track next to queuing traffic when a car driver (forgetting the cycle track was there) did a right hand turn across the on coming stationary queuing cars hitting her side on- fortunately she bounced well leaving a good dent in the side of the car before landing unceremoniously on the ground getting away with bruising, cuts and a ripped cycling jacket. Fallen women lived up to her name when she did indeed fall from her bike during the millionaires tour. The exact cause of the fall remains in question, rumours link the fall to a lack of alcohol consumption as she had been seen to drink orange juice for breakfast instead of wine! She managed to land face first on the tarmac resulting in facial bruising, cuts and swelling. Thankfully the use of a helmet saved her from any serious head injury and she managed to carry on the millionaires tour the same evening when released from hospital. Nightmare needed hospital admission following a fall whilst on the last Sunday ride of the year. Landing heavily on her handlebars after catching them on a bollard she sustained “damage” to her kidneys which required a spell in hospital to recover. - Get well soon



Aunt Sally’s most Disastrous ride: It was the Sunday after Christmas, the rain had finally stopped, the sun was shining, warm and bright. The gales abated leaving hardly a breath of wind. There was no snow, ice or frost on the ground - perfect conditions for a safe pleasant cycle. It was decided to cycle round from Cockwood to Exmouth to check up on Bothways progress following surgery on her leg - a flat gentle ride using the safe, traffic free cycle route - what could go wrong?. Well it begun with Eve somehow getting lost en-route to Cockwood! Nightmare then crashed heavily on the way through Starcross requiring a trip to, and admission into hospital for a few days. Barsteward then slid off the bike bumping his swede on the deck closely followed by his pal Crossy who cycled straight into him whilst he lay on the floor, helmets thankfully prevented any serious injury to both. Spiderman then crashed into a bollard along Topsham quay whilst using his mobile phone and very nearly fell off the quay, Unda forged on with a breakaway group arriving at the wrong location of the Beach Pub not Bothways house!. To top it all the group never made it to Bothway’s as a mutiny occurred preventing any further progress from the pubs in Lympstone !! The return journey was not without incident with Aunt Sally suffering 2 punctures (1 front,1 rear) nearly missing the lovely beer and chips !

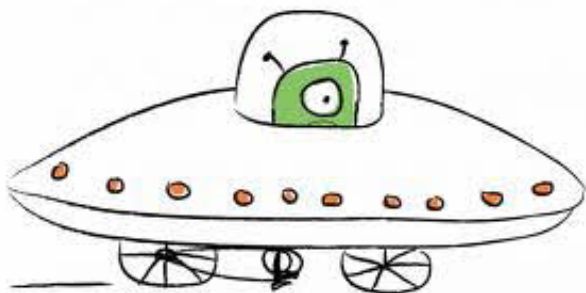
Breaking news: Alien infiltration of TVPB member- Concerns are being raised that unexplained extraterrestrial life is becoming evident within the TVPB with bash members possibly being infiltrated by alien life forces. Aliens are defined as non citizen species of life forms that do not originate from this planet, or are not native to the local environment. With this definition in mind, it appears that there maybe many members within the TVPB organisation who fit this description, confirming the fear that they may have had their bodies “taken over” by extraterrestrial life forms who are choosing to live their life in their “host’s” human form. The choice of the type of the human body the aliens have chosen shows great intelligence. By inhabiting the bodies of TVPB members they can go about their daily life inconspicuously without causing any suspicion by strange behaviour or looks.

So what has happened to raise awareness of this potential threat to humanity present within our group? Recently one of our officers has started showing human strength which is far greater than expected from an average man of his age. Blaster has been involved in a couple of high speed accidents involving a bike and a round-about, both times he has walked away with minor injuries that have healed in remarkably quick time, no broken bones or head injury.

Doctors amazed at his lack of injury combined with the speed of his recovery alerted Government agents to their suspicions of an alien presence. The Government reacted quickly by cordoning off the farm where Blaster lives with Flossie. It is unsure what happened during this period but strange noises were heard coming from the farm, whilst reporters gained glimpses of men in white coats and rubber gloves walking around the farm with test-tubes and strange looking hand held equipment. The question remains - Is Blaster in fact being used as a “host body” by an alien or indeed a whole alien family? Have they turned his body into a cybernetic organism able to withstand major forces, explosions and large quantities of alcohol or is there a less sinister answer to these strange occurrences? Further evidence of



blasters alien tendencies is shown within the picture below which was “acquired” by the editor of birdseye. It shows the new bike design that Blaster has secretly commissioned Aunt Sally to make for him to provide a “more stable and protected ride”. The bash leaders appear to have “closed ranks” and are refusing to answer any questions regarding Blasters superhuman strengths, questions of alien activity within the organisation, the increase in forehead size or the formation of the flying saucer



green bike brigade - Birdseye believes that at some stage during the command formation there may well have been deep inside alien penetration - The true extent of its effects are still unknown and birdseye will continue to investigate any evidence of alien activity within the bash - Remember the Answer is still out there !!!

The Royal Wedding: Congratulation to the happy couple Diamond Lil and Lord Stretch, who finally tied the knot in a lavish high society wedding on the 6th October. After an extremely long engagement, (whilst Diamond Lil decided if Lord stretch was indeed her prince charming), the bride looked radiant as she walked down the aisle dressed in a beautiful lycra free white silk wedding dress. Lord Stretch looked immaculate in a black suit as wedding vows were exchanged The couple celebrated in style till the early hours with a very posh wedding breakfast at-



tended by many local dignitaries and socialites of Devon. Diamond Lil said afterwards "it was the perfect wedding day, but it was a shame that our "working class" friends could not be there" (It was

felt the vast amount of silver on show would have been too much of a temptation for them). On hearing that his beautiful bride



was sad, Lord Stretch jumped into action organising a post wedding bash for their "lower classed" group of friends. He chose the venue wisely having previously seen the effects free food and alcohol had on this group of people - the venue he chose was the local farm! The happy couple invited all their cycling friends to Duckerell Farm for a "good old" post wedding knees up.

Knowing how financially strapped their friends were, the couple wanted to avoid any unnecessary expense for their friends so they disguised this wedding celebration as a Sunday ride thus allowing all to turn up in Lycra. Diamond Lil again looked stunning in her purple lycra coloured cycling outfit combined with a white veil delicately poking out of her helmet, Lord stretch looked debonair as ever as the stylish bridegroom, in his yellow high vizi jacket. The couple started the ride off to loud applause and the rattle of tin cans attached to Diamond Lils bike! After a dry sunny cycle, the group returned to the farms barn to continue the celebration with a buffet provided by the happy couple, with free booze available the group of friends enjoyed a rustic down to earth common post wedding spread suitable for their lower class citizens friends in the TVPB! CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HAPPY COUPLE



Partridge Cycles charge for old Cardboard: Signs of the recession are hitting businesses everywhere. Partridge cycles it appears is no exception. It seems that the cash flow might be so tight that they now have to charge for empty cardboard bike boxes. Whilst planning to take bikes abroad a basher went into the shop to ask for 2 empty bike boxes to pack the bikes in for transportation. There was a full skip of empty bike boxes waiting to be picked up for rubbish. On asking he was told that it was £1:00 per box - now that may not seem a high price to pay, however in every other bike shop (where boxes have been requested) there is no charge and boxes have been given away happily and free. When questioned their response was " they get discounted on the weight of the cardboard recycled, so if they give boxes away free this would mean a reduction in weight affecting their discount received hence they now charge for their boxes" - the overall cost however is actually bad press and a loss of sales as the basher went elsewhere for a free box and at the same time purchased equipment for the trip. Maybe Partridge cycles needs to rethink this marketing strategy!

The TVPB members support Prostate Cancer Charity: Yet again members of the TVPB has supported worthy charity's by cycling and losing weight. Bothway's and Allways attempted the Jurassic classic in August. The 100 mile ride started and finished in Exmouth passing through Sidmouth, Lyme-regis, Honiton, Cullompton and Exeter involving 2780m (9120ft) of climbing. The pair completed the challenge in 7hr 52mins and 55 second (including rest stops) with an average speed of 13.7 mph. It was a very enjoyable ride taking them through local lanes that they had not cycles around before. Obviously the pair are a non competitive couple, but Allways did somehow manage to beat Bothways time by 1 second!!!. The couple raised an amazing £739.00, once gift aid was added the final total was £916.25.

Hatrack's Hardened experience whilst in Singapore: Hatrack was waiting to cross a road in Singapore. He stood happily at a pedestrian controlled crossing proudly wearing his "Devon" cycling gear, when a bloody great 20 + ton tipper truck topped up with wet cement / concrete appeared just as they changed. The driver slammed his brakes ensuing a tsunami of liquid sticky stone stuff spilt over the cab & carried on covering Hatrack rendering him speechless and slightly stiff! He admitted that it was actually quite pleasant having not been that hard for years! and it was the first time that he was plastered this Christmas! but there was no concrete proof of the perpetrator. Think it might have been a " Mortar See" vehicle. Not a good way to cement Anglo / Singaporean relationships



The Tour of Britain

comes to Devon:

The “tour” again visited Devon starting in Sidmouth and finishing at Haytor. It was seen by thousands of people with a strong TVPB contingency included.

Many like the editor

watched the start at Sidmouth whilst a group cycled to the finish at the top of Haytor. As can be seen by the pictures, the weather was good, spirits were high and RJ was his usual inconspicuous self!!!



Pottsie calls troops into battle: November saw a large Bash representation at this protest ride on the A381 supporting the need to develop a cycle track along this particularly dangerous piece of road. The troops were called into formation by Mayday and Unda, and they joined hundreds of other cyclists riding along this stretch of road causing long tail-backs for 90 minutes along this road. Although congestion and delays were caused, by undertaking this ride on a Sunday the effects to the local community were reduced.

Lets hope that the local council recognises the need for this track and acts fast to avoid the need for further protest rides and demonstrations. Pottsie is also promoting the Teign estuary trail campaign by asking all bashers to put finger to keypad or pen to paper and sign the petition to force the council to debate the item on their agenda. To get involved follow the following link to the website - <http://freepetition.co.uk/devoncc/LivePetition.aspx?flag=1>



Poorly Bashers: Are our bashers bodies failing? Bobbiball is the latest bash body to fail - his speed has been slowly declining, his drop off's are shortening and fluidity stiffening. Initially poor (or lack of) bike maintenance was thought to be the blame, however on further inspection it was found not to be the bikes fault!. It appears after many years of “bashing abuse” his body is finally showing signs of “wear and tear”. Hopefully with medication, lubrication and regeneration he will soon be back on his bike enjoying the thrills and not too many spills of bash cycling again.

Bobbibal festival 2014: After the fun and frolics of Christmas and new years what is there to look forward to in 2014? Cold, wet, fun less cash strapped days? But not for everyone! Those lucky bashers registered on The Bobbibal Festival 2014 have the most amount fun you can legally have to look forward too. With Upgrades to 3 star accommodation still available, the 7th February, Exford will be the place to be for a weekend of cycling, eating and partying with Saturday being the “Big birthday bash” fancy dress and grooving to the sounds from the 70's, 80's and 90's - it's going to be a rocking weekend so be there or be square!!

Millionaires tour 2013: this year the bash's upper class "millionaires tour" cycle to Cornwall. As with all "posh" tours, when money is no object, the tour was fully supported with a vehicle carrying suitcases brimming with grand outfits, jewellery, make up and booze!! The platoon organised by Hatrack, spent the trip staying in the most luxurious accommodation, ate the most expensive cuisine and consumed the best tasting alcohol money could buy. Its a shame however that at the end no-one in the tour appears to be able to remember this most prestigious tour to write a note for birdseye!! Is this because their minds were pickled by alcohol removing any memory of this tour, or is there a more sinister reason for their silence? Birdseye uncovered photo's suggesting that a group kidnapping and brain washing (which probably didn't take much time) by an



"unknown" cult may have occurred. Above, the group can be clearly seen to be praying to "a leader". This theory also supports the most extremely abnormal behaviour ever exhibited by bash

members since bash formation. Tea is clearly visible in the hands of some of our most hardened beer drinking bashers! a non-



alcoholic beverage that leaves you with faculties intact and a clear head. Opposite shows evidence of this theory with bashers ignoring cider for orange juice (even Gassa) . The big question is how did this mass brain wash take place? One theory is the use of brain washing probes inserted near the brain, which explains why the male members of group succumbed so quickly!, Obviously the female members clearly put up more resistance due to the higher level in the body of their brain!!- could Fallen Women's tour accident be explained by this phenomenon? - was it the only way they could gain access into her brain? Despite medical reviews of all members since return, these questions remain unanswered as their behaviour has once again happily returned back to the bashers normal beer swilling, wine drinking levels with no tea or orange juice in sight



Christmas cheer: The editor would like to wish all of Birdseyes readers a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. May you have many happy hours of safe stress free riding in 2014 !! On On