

# Bird's eye view



Summer 2014  
edition

Bash weddings: Lucy and Spoons celebrated their wedding on the 5th April. Having met at the bash, Juicy Lucy fell for the slightly wild, untamed, clumsy, hyperactive fun loving Spoons with romance blossoming as the couple enjoyed "Off road head banging" together, with Juicy Lucy moving to Wales (now that must be love!). The happy couple tied the knot in a ceremony watched by their family. Lucy looked beautiful in a flowing  $\frac{3}{4}$  length dress whilst Spoons certainly scrubbed up well looking like a "proper gentleman" in a suit. The celebrations continued with their families during a meal followed by a good "old fashioned" knees up with dancing



to a live band, Hog Roast and plenty of beer. Donna and Sander's celebrated their wedding on the 21st June. The couple met whilst Donna was on a surfing holiday in Lanzarotte. Her instructor turned out to be a tall, handsome Dutch surf dude called Sander - the pair found love in the surf with Sander eventually packing his surf board, moving to Devon and buying a house with Donna. The happy couple tied the knot on a sunny summers day at a church in Exeter watched by family and friends. Donna looked gorgeous in a  $\frac{3}{4}$  length white dress, with Sander looking very smart in a suit. After the ceremony the happy couple joined by their wedding party strolled over the River Exe to continue celebrating at The Mill on the Exe with a meal. The evening continued with music, dancing and chilling by the waters edge. The Green badger brigade (joined by a couple of roadies in Wales) managed very successfully to combine weddings and head banging cycling. Both weddings provided great venues for the group to enjoy two good weekends of cycling around the area of Monmouth, Haldon and Bovey. Then combine this with the two great wedding evening bashes - what more could any basher/green badger want?!!! Congratulations to the two happy perfectly matched couples - we wish you many years of happiness, fun, headbanging and surfing together.



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Debarcle comes of age: It may surprise many bashers to know that Debarcle is officially now classified as an OAP! He retired in June from his GP practice and celebrated by throwing a party. When bashers heard about his retirement many were heard to mutter "but I thought he had retired years ago, he never seemed to be at work anymore!" He celebrated his retirement with friends from his varied social life including



medical, church, scuba diving, hashing and bashing groups and family supported by his "long suffering" wife Pauline! Everyone



enjoyed an evening of crazy dancing to Mad Dog Macrea, whilst devouring a Hog Roast washed down by copious amounts of alcohol. Debarcle

looked every inch the aging pensioner (especially in that shirt - once you hit old age your dress sense goes immediately - look at Unda for example!) as he danced the night away jumping all round the dance floor!! The following day Debarcle organised a great off-road bash ride over the moors with some great off-road riding. When asked about his plans for retirement - "was he going to join a bowling club, spend hours pottering in his garden, enjoying quiet relaxing Saga holidays with Pauline whilst growing old gracefully?" His answer was definitely a big NO! The next week he was jetting off to the Galapagos Islands with Mayhem, He was then planning long canoeing trips, many cycling trips and making sure his plans included growing old very disgracefully!!!. Pauline when asked what she was looking forward to now Debarcle had retired, she replied "his absence ....I am hoping that he spends as much time out and about and not under my feet at home!!!" with a smile. Birdseye would like to wish Debarcle a very happy and wild retirement.

RJ's bit on the side: Birdseye can reveal that RJ has started up a campervan conversion business to maintain his continuing life of luxury. His best mate Blaster can recommend his company, he said " when we were looking for a new wagon, we showed him our old clapped out VW van and in no time at all he converted it to the stylish state of the art van were using now. I have no idea how he did it so cheaply, it only cost £1,000,000"



HOW MUCH?



The changing face of the bash! Birdseye has managed to obtain some pictures from years gone by of bashers in their youth. As can be seen, some are looking better with age, some unchanged and definitely some need the assistance of plastic surgery - but which ones fall into which category can not be identified by Birdseye due to the potential risk of some libel action being taken.



## Bash celebrations: Congratulations to Emma and



Mark Bisson on their latest addition to the family, Rose Bisson was born in March 2014. Grandad Wiffy admitted the birth of his second grandchild had been a very stressful time for him, "Whilst Emma was in labour it was very difficult for me to decide whether I should be buying pints of ale or just half pints in case we had to rush off to the hospital. Well I didn't want to waste any did I" he explained.

Mother and baby are both doing well and Harry is loving having a baby sister to play with!!!

The bash has another new addition. Simon Lee-Farmer and his wife Mel introduced their new addition to the family Enid to the bashers in July. Until old enough to ride a bike, drink alcohol and set a ride she will be known as "Small holding". And so the next generation of bashers begins - Congratulations to both families



**Bashers that are crashers:** Earlier this month Eve (PHOEBE) took a tumble from her bike sustaining a very nasty cut to the knee. As she was happily cycling along the road talking to herself she accidentally hit the back of a car that had stopped suddenly. The cause of the accident remains a mystery, however there are a couple of explanations being discussed. The first is human error. Witnesses are convinced they heard her talking and saw a camera flash just before impact. The second is more sinister- It is no secret that PHOEBE and Heidi have been



doing a lot of riding together as she got up to speed to do a long distance bike ride. Allegedly Heidi was heard to say "she's getting too fast for me now", after this comment he was seen outside fiddling with her undercarriage and looking very shifty. When asked what he was doing his reply was "I'm just checking the undercarriage for any leakage, I don't want PHOEBE to slip off at speed". It was later that same day that she had her accident. She is now on the way to full recovery and remains unsure if she was momentarily distracted at the time of the accident or if her brakes seemed unresponsive prior to the incident! At least she had her camera at hand to take a picture of the injury whilst lying on the roadside.

The start of rebuilding Mudsie has begun in earnest - Surgeons at the RD&E have begun the delicate process of restoring her to her "former self" by replacing the first of her knee joints! The operation went very well and Mudsie is now resting at home and getting back on her feet looking forward to climbing back on the bike again soon.

TVPB “gate crash” the Tour De France 2014- Bothways and Always are avid fans of the tour. Always often dreamed of wearing the Yellow Jersey whilst Bothways dreamed of donning the polka dot king of the mountains jersey. With the tour starting in Leeds, the pair excitedly set off to watch the “Grande depart”. They allowed themselves time to cycle some of the planned routes (at a much slower pace than the peloton!). They experienced the climbs and sprint finishes that the tour riders would ride by following the “route closed” signs. Their excitement grew as they cycled past the bunting and yellow bikes everywhere adorning the routes. They saw large Wensleydale cheeses dotted about and strange bale shaped people with Sid's cafe, from “last of the summer wine”, even going spotty for the occasion. Saturday finally arrived and the pair accompanied by a friend John Cooper from the CTC Torbay group rode their carbon fibre bikes into Leeds. The crowds were massive, the route through Leeds packed with people full of anticipation. The group could not see over the crowds so they climbed onto the roof of the council building to get a “birdseye” view. With excitement increasing they finally managed to get to the side of the route as their idols rode



past followed by the tour buses. Always, with excitement overload suddenly saw his chance to finally become part of the tour. With a gap in the barricades big enough to get a bike through, he pushed his bike onto the course accompanied by Bothways and John. With the security guards attention diverted to another area, Always suddenly shouted “On On On” jumped on his bike and peddled furiously down the centre of the course closely followed by Bothways. The crowds erupted with cheers, as the security guards shouted to stop. The pair fuelled by adrenaline and excitement raced along the main streets of Leeds with the noise of the crowds ringing in their ears. They

left the city with their only intention of catching the peloton!

Sadly this time it was not to be as the adrenaline ran out and the lactic acid built up in their legs. A cafe was spotted and the group pulled over with shaking legs to have a well earned breather and re-live their “grande depart”. It was certainly a once in a life time experience being the first non tour cyclists on the route and will be their claim to fame for years to come!!!

The group continued back to Harrogate along closed roads to see the tour return. The following day they set off again to cycle some of the route on shut roads with the intention of cycling to the first hill climb.



On leaving Harrogate they caught up with a group of like minded cyclist and as they



got closer to the group they recognised another familiar TVPB cyclist - Dandy! The groups continued on the route to the first climb, the "Cote de Blubberhouse" where they watched the tour pass through whilst



a Scottish piper played his bagpipes on top of the cliff. The Tour De France (AKA Yorkshire) was a great experience to watch and be part of - the crowds were spectacular, the atmosphere fun, full of anticipation and

excitement whilst waiting for the peloton to fly past - it proved to be a great place to cycle The Yorkshire moors were very scenic but also challenging with some strenuous hill climbs - its an area well worth a visit. The couple also "acquired" another little memento of their trip to see the Tour De France In Harrogate - there were so many signs around they didn't think that anyone would miss one sign!!!!

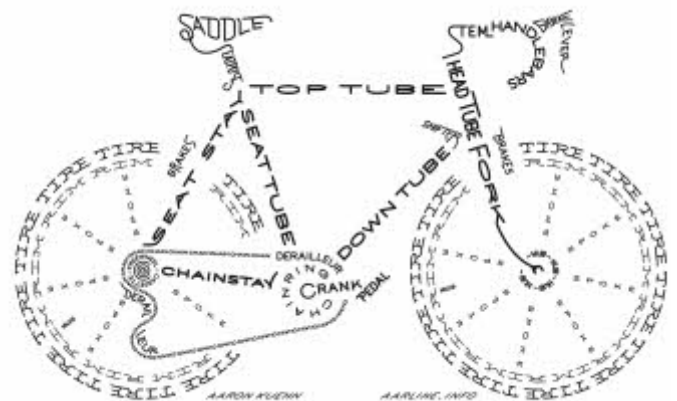
**Pottsies 4th Annual Bridge Ride:** This year Pottsies ride took in 35 bridges

and 1 level crossing!, He circumnavigated Exeter using a slightly different route with a total mileage of 18.5 miles in a time of 1hr 59 minutes. It was supported by 35 riders and 5 social attendees. Well done to Pottsie for yet another great bridge ride. He has promised an even better 5th annual bridge ride next year with more pubs if he is still alive. Judging by this picture Pottsie looks like he is definitely alive and kicking and enjoying himself in the embrace of the bash birds!!



**Birdseye's Bird bike maintenance:**

the editor has found the perfect accessory to assist bash birds bike maintenance. Use the diagram opposite to locate the exact point on the bike where any strange squeaks, rubbing noises or wobbly joints are present when riding. Put a mark at that point on the diagram then give it to your favourite "male" to repair - this prevents any greasy hands or broken nails!!



**Manky and Plugger go Bashing in Bodmin:** Bodmin moor is recognised to be one of the most beautiful, unspoilt landscapes of Britain dominated by dramatic granite Tors and sweeping expanses of moorland - what better place for the bashers to invade for a weekend!!!

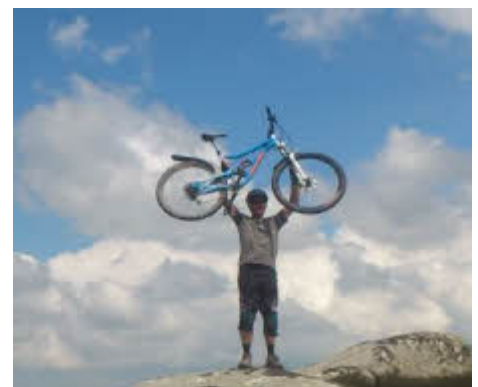


In June having experienced a period of extreme sunny, dry weather Manky and Plugger took the bash to Little Margate campsite near Cardinal woods for a weekend of off-road cycling. A lovely location surrounded by the open moor with horses and rabbits surrounding them - perfect for a large group of rough and ready mountain bikers happy to live the wild outdoor lifestyle - that is until they found out

there was 1 shower and 1 toilet on site!!! This resulted in much rivalry and racing as each individual basher tried to get to the basic facilities first - even the unwritten law of "women and children first" was not adhered to when nature called!!! Saturday morning the group woke to the sound of Plugger bailing out - had he had a "wet dream" over night? No he was dealing with the effects of the extreme weather they had experienced overnight and bailing out the lake that he had found in his tent when he woke up! The cycling around Lanhydrock and Cardinal woods was brilliant - there was cross country combined with some technical ups and downs. Snaky was the only one who manage to complete the very steep climb up to "hells teeth" followed by the burmy descent - well he is from the extreme green badger brigade! The group was also supported by the two bash mascots, Whizzer (Shinpad and V2's virile brute of a pooch) and Jemima (Juicy and Spoons gentle lady pooch). In true bash style, Whizzer took a shine to the lady and spent the weekend trying to show her what a good lay he would be - in true bash style, she was far more clever than him and managed to tease him for the whole time whilst keeping him at lead length!!! The weather improved for the Sunday ride at the Minions and the bash was made very welcome at the Cheese-Wring Hotel afterwards with a good supply of sausages and chips. A great weekend of bashing was had by all, unfortunately Plugger 's absence had been noted since he was last seen on top of the rock looking for the way down.



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**Escapades of the Green Badger Brigade:** The Green Badgers have been very active over the last few months with their yearly reconnaissance mission to Cheddar

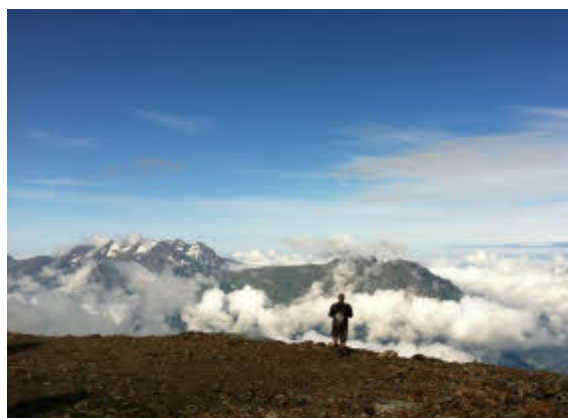


in June and a trip to compete in the Megavalanche in Les Arcs. Both campaigns had one similar feature - mud! As can be seen by these pictures this year Cheddar provided a variety of climate changes for the group. On the whole a sunny warm weekend was had



by all with the odd heavy rain shower and muddy puddle for the Green Badgers to wallow in!!

The Megavalanche is a mountain bike downhill marathon style event that mixes



gravity-assisted excitement with enduro levels of fitness, guaranteed to test both nerve and physique. The most famous round is run from the French Alps town of



Alpe D'Huez, starting on the glaciated summit of

the Pic Blanc (3,300m) and descending to the lush meadows of the valley bottom at Allemont (720m), after some 2000 metres down and 30 km along. A select team of Green Badgers represented the group in this race, with some qualifying to take part in the race itself. Well done to Kiwi who was the fastest qualifying Green Badger, however if he had not carried so much mud around with him on the course he may have even been faster!!!



The group were also testing out the latest prototype off-road bike. As can be seen, the frame is slightly larger than the average bike. This combined with the size of the wheels prevents as much of the mud covering the rider - maybe next year they should try this style of bike for the Megavalanche!!!

**Breaking news:** After a whirlwind romance Bin Bag Bob proposed to Lustly and she happily said “yes”. She is now the proud owner of a lovely sparkly ring. It’s great news but one basher has chosen to tarnish the news by circulating a rumour that this could be a “shotgun” proposal as Lustly is maybe “with child”. Hatrack explains “that it all seemed rather sudden after all they haven’t been going out for that long!” Lustly assures Birdseye that there will not be the patter of any tiny feet for the foreseeable future, however technically there maybe some truth in this rumour as Binbag Bob is now at the age to be starting his second childhood. Maybe Lustly should start thinking about getting the playpen out for him!!!! Congratulations to the happy couple.



**Kilkenny’s bicycle for 3!!** As can be seen by this picture, when Kilkenny now goes out for a little bike ride he takes the family on his specially converted Tandem for 3 now.

**Bothways fails Medical school entry tests:** Commiserations to Bothways who recently failed her final entry test into the Plymouth medical school. She had managed to successfully complete the extremely difficult practical examination of completing a Total Knee replacement on a willing patient (how do you think Mudsie got her replacements so quickly on the NHS?!!). However she was not as successful on the final test which was a very confusing conundrum. All she had to do was rearrange the following letters - **P N E I S** to form the name of an important human body part which is most useful when erect. Sadly she was unable to tell us which body part she wrote down on the exam paper but all the people that wrote down **SPINE** are now working as Doctors!

**Bash’s New Ride’s mistress:** Tonto has recently handed over the extremely difficult job of being the Bash rides mistress after successfully completing the job for many many years. A BIG THANK-YOU to Tonto for all the hard work she has put in ensuring that every Thursday and Sunday the bashers have a venue to meet, ride and socialise from. It is definitely not an easy task but she has always done it with such commitment. The brave New Rides Mistress is no other than PHEOBE, who was sworn in during an official bash ceremony recently. Pottsie explained why he had chosen her for the job saying “she is such an enthusiastic girl with a great personality and I’m sure when she starts getting around the bashers no-one in their right mind will be able to say NO to her persuasive manner!” Good Luck Phoebe



## Bashers get their kit off for a Good cause!

Well done to Soapy and Melonpicker for baring all at the Naked Bike ride in Plymouth in July to support the Breast Cancer Care Charity. They chose the charity to support their friend who is battling breast cancer at the moment. Melon picker when interviewed after the ride was heard to say "we both wanted to raise awareness to a cause close to our hearts, although I found it a very stimulating experience, Soapy appeared to certainly excelled in making sure her two prominent assets draw plenty of attention to a very good cause," So far they have raised over £2000 - however if we can get it up to £3000 Melon picker has promised to never take his kit off again in public.



**Hatracks rusty joints:** Its not only Hatracks knees that are playing him up. On a recent bike ride even a major weight bearing joint on his electric bike collapsed under him!



**Breaking News:** Tonto has only broken her ankle now! - best wishes are sent to her as she hops around .

**Sticky Dicky's steaming extension:** Sticky proudly showed off his new helmet extension that he has been keeping under his hat on a bash ride. With his great age increasing he had noticed his cycling speed had been reducing. To increase his riding power he had considered an electric bike, but preferred the old fashioned method of steam. So he has developed a backpack furnace to produce enough steam to propel his bike. To prevent expelling waste products from his rear he has thoughtfully developed this helmet chimney to allow smoke to be discreetly released in to the environment to prevent choking other bashers.



# ***The Bobbiball Festival 2015***

***Date: 6th-8th February 2015***

***Venue: Wye Valley YHA***

*(previously known as Welsh Bicknor)*

***Cost £55:00***

Special Offer - 1 free drink available at the pub Lunch stop on Saturday to anyone introducing someone new to the weekend. To be eligible for this offer the friend must be new to the weekend, book and fully pay for a place in the hostel. Offer available subject to space availability in hostel

This great weekend by popular demand returns to the Wye Valley YHA (Welsh Bicknor). It is a large imposing Victorian Hostel, situated in the heart of the stunning Royal Forest of Dean. This large old house offers ample space for the group to chill out whilst enjoying the gourmet 2 course evening meals, lively evening entertainment and for the Rugby fans a large TV to ensure that no match is missed!. It also has cycle storage, a drying room and plenty of car parking. The area offers awesome mountain biking including single tracks, tricky switchback climbs, rooty drop off 's and hairpin bends - a mountain bikers dream! It is surrounded by open hills, wooded valleys and quiet lanes great for road riding and even catering for the non cyclists of the group being close to Symond Yat. From the moment you arrive at the Wye Valley hostel on Friday evening you are promised a week-end that guarantees you the maximum amount of fun you can legally have!

Tasty wholesome food will be expertly prepared for both evening meals and breakfasts using high quality ingredients and cooked by our 50 star Michelin chef 's with years of experience ensuring the meals are tailored to the needs of the extreme athletes that attend this weekend. Snacks, cakes and nibbles are also included throughout the weekend preventing anyone's cycling performance being affected by malnutrition! PLUS ALCOHOLIC beverages

The weekend provides 2 amazing off road rides led by the King of Forest Ken-The Rave who will expertly combine cross country cycling with technical riding around the Forest of Dean ensuring great cycling is enjoyed by all. 2 Stunning road rides will be planned covering all abilities and distances allowing the two groups to meet up for lunch at a pub (Venue to be arranged) on Saturday.

There will be nightly entertainment and dancing to tunes provided by our resident DJ with copious amounts of "on tap" alcoholic liquid refreshments provided to prevent dehydration occurring. Saturday evening is PARTY Night again with dancing till late and optional fancy dress if revelers are brave enough.

**This weekend remains at an amazing cost of only £55:00 per person staying in the hostel and £30:00 if staying in a campervan - a £10:00 deposit to Anna is required to secure your place on the Bobbibal festival - with a deal this good places will go fast so HURRY to avoid disappointment**

Campervan option: Parking available for large campervans in parking area on Stowford Road approximately 10 minutes walk to hostel due to narrow driveway down to hostel.

Directions: From the A40 from Ross on Wye to Monmouth, turn left signposted Goodrich. In Goodrich village, turn left opposite Jolly's stores. Follow the road for appx 1.5 miles and when road splits, take the right hand track. The track is narrow and steep with hairpin bend, not suitable for larger vehicles and coaches.

(Please note: There is no personal liability or accident insurance specifically arranged for this weekend. Please ensure you have adequate personal cover. The organisers do not accept liability for any damage to equipment or personal injury)