Bird's eye view

Summer 2015 edition

3 Weddings and a Funeral! -

What a summer of celebration for the bashers so far. The summer of 2016 will certainly be remembered as the Summer of ***LOVE*!** The TVPB has celebrated 3 weddings in as many months. Each wedding being very different from the other reflecting the diversity and individuality of the bashers involved. This small snapshot of the differing bashers personalities and beliefs highlights the eclectic range of people, personalities and beliefs that make up the TVPB which is what makes this cycling group such a fun group to be part of.

In May the bashers celebrated Soapy and Melon Picker's Pagan chocolate wedding - see page 2 for the full story.

June saw Bothways and Always celebrate their cycling wedding on their epic charity ride from John O'Groats to Lands End followed by their wedding festival celebration in July - see page 3 for the full story

Turbo Tom and Laura celebrated their wedding at Haldon Belvedere in August - see page 4 for full details

The funeral: Turn to page 5 for the details

The “Cadbury’s Bride”- Congratulations to Soapy and Melon Picker who celebrated their traditional pagan“ hand trying” wedding with a chocolate twist. The hand tying ceremony is based on an ancient symbol of union between two people symbolising their lifelong loving relationship. The ceremony they chose was for a life long commitment which is equal to a conventional wedding, however there is one that lasts just a year and a day. The ceremony was held outdoors (as it is considered the most appropriate place to celebrate a ritual of life, love and fertility) at Lustleigh Orchard. Their hands were bound together symbolising their union with their guests and witnesses standing in a circle surrounding them symbolising the womb of the goddess. Their hands remained tied until they had spoken their vows and exchanged rings and kissed. Their relatives gave ribbons of various colours all with very personal meaning. The couple then blessed a chalice of wine as their first act as a married couple passing it round the guests. Soapy included her love of chocolate for her big day by hand making her beautiful wedding dress from hundreds of chocolate wrappers she had collected. It took her 5 months to eat all the chocolate and complete the dress and she looked amazing. Melonpicker looked the dashing bridegroom aptly dressed as Willy Wonker, her bridesmaids dresses were adorned with sweets and even the dog dressed as an Oompa Loompa. They celebrated after with friends and family with a barn dance at Lustleigh Village Hall and a chocolate wedding cake finished the chocolate wedding off perfectly. On Sunday bashers celebrated with the couple on their bike ride and provided them with a surprise wedding cake and champagne. Spiderman took the happy couple for a spin in his lovely wedding limo. A great end to a lovely day.

Here’s to a “solid” life together with no meltdowns!

The Bride and Groom on a Bike: Bothway's and Always met at the bash 8 years ago. When Lee proposed in Venice they knew cycling would play a big part in their wedding. The couple decided to combine Bothway's dream of cycling from John O'Groats to Lands End with their wedding day by cycling 1450 miles on their charity "Wedding End to End cycle" and popping into Gretna Green on route to "Tie the Knot". The couple raised money with wedding presents in the form of donations to their 2 charities Cancer research in memory of Lee's mum and The Heart Foundation in memory of Anna's dad. Their celebrations culminated in a lavish wedding festival with all proceeds going to their charities. The 1st week they cycled to Carlisle to meet up with family and friends for their wedding weekend. On route they were joined by a Channel 4 film crew who filmed them for a series on Gretna Green Weddings. Fortunately they did not have to carry their wedding outfits and cycling theme decorations for their wedding breakfast meal otherwise their bikes would have weighed a ton!!! On the day Bothways decorated their hired wedding transport of a tandem. Bothway's looked beautiful in her white knee length (to avoid getting oil on it!) wedding dress with lacy bodice and flowing skirt, combined with head dress, veil and bouquet of pink lilies, Lee looked very Smart in his Blue suit plus cycling theme tie with matching cufflinks and suit pin - they certainly caused a stir around Carlisle as they cycled the 11 miles to their wedding at The Old Black Smiths Shop at Gretna Green. On route car drivers tooted their horns, people cheered and took photo's, some even stopping to give donations. Waiting at Gretna, Kaci, Lee's granddaughter made the perfect bridesmaid as she cycled behind the couple on her bicycle. The couple were joined by Lee's 2 grandson's on their balance bikes to complete the cycling pictures. The couple proceeded to cause chaos happily cycling around Gretna Green with the children following watched by visitors. After the wedding they cycled back with tin cans rattling behind the bike for a champagne wedding breakfast. The next day they got back on their bikes to continue their epic end to end cycle as a married couple.

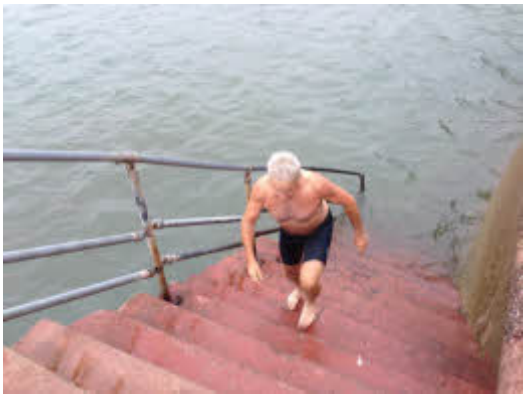
Bothway's and Always Charity Wedding Festival weekend: The couple wanted to celebrate their wedding with family and friends so what better way than a cycling weekend and charity Beer, Cider, Pimm's and Wine festival with all proceeds going to their chosen charities. Trucker kindly donated the use of his 2 fields for the event. They bought 2 big marquees and Bothway's decorated them in a cycling theme by painting "old" bike wheels, chains and cogs with bunting (kindly donated by Spiderman) to finish it off. Even their 3 tier wedding cake had a cycling theme, bothways made the bottom tier the size of a bike wheel and decorated it in the "king of the mountains" colours! The Bashers turned up on Friday evening for a weekend of cycling and fun. Blaster led a Saturday ride to the opening of the new Bridge across the A38. At 19:30 the happy couple cycled into the field on a borrowed tandem (thanks Blaster) in their wedding outfits to recreate their wedding arrival - as they turned into the field the sight of all their friend/family cheering them on was breathtaking and as they cycled through the arch they had made it was the perfect start to their wedding party. The evening was a great success, catching up with family and many friends whilst dancing the night away to Skool Daze. A BIG Thank you to everyone that stepped in to help before and during the evening to ensure the night went without a "hitch". The next day the roadies (led by Trucker) and the Off roaders (led by Snakey and Ali) enjoyed a great day of cycling with Bacon Butties and more booze on their return. The Happy couple collected an amazing £1600 on the night for their charities and had a brilliant weekend. Lets hope their ride though life is smooth with no pot holes or drop offs!!

Turbo Tom ties the knot: Congratulations to Turbo and Laura who married in a ceremony held at Haldon Belvedere. Laura looked stunning in her knee length white dress with bouquet of flowers. Turbo Tom scrubbed up well to look the perfect bridegroom in his blue suit. They then celebrated with friend and family at the Ley Arms where they danced the night away to a live band. During the night Turbo Tom showed he not only cycles like Debarcle but he also has inherited his dancing abilities ! Strictly ballroom it may not have been but at least Laura came away with both her feet intact and no broken bones!!! The couple then honeymooned in Austria.

Pluggers Trans Cambrian off road trip: When Plugger organises a trip its not for the faint hearted!! It turned into 425kms off road with 11.000 metres of climbing! 6 of our best off road bashers (Manky, Plugger, Dandy, Buctu, Unda and Bobbibal!!!!!!) took on the challenge of Wales longest mountain biking trail - all survived the trip returning with only aching bones and butts !! Fortunately the weather was good to the group and they enjoyed sunny dry days. Each evening the group relived the days traumas as they consumed the liquid analgesia they required to ensure a good nights sleep was had ready for the next days tough welsh climbing!

The Funeral: Why has birdseye been so late in coming out? The reason is because no basher has obliged to fill this section! Although it has to be said over the last few months we have had a couple of “near misses” and looking at some of the older bashers I am surprised they are still alive and kicking. So Birdseye has given up waiting and is pleased to announce that the vacancy for this section will remain unfilled!!!

TVPB Navy Buoys Platoon: Our Leader Pottsie has become increasingly concerned that there is a coastal invasion in the planning and the TVPB lacked an elite squad to protect the Devon Coastline from this enemy invasion. He has spent many a night tossing and turning worrying about how to protect his beloved Dawlish coast line causing Bedpig much sleep depravation. Recently he awoke in the middle of the night waking Bedpig shouting “The answer to our problems is Nightlight”. He summoned Nightlight to his quarters and explained his idea of developing a squad that could make the switch from land manoeuvres to the water seamlessly. Nightlight realised he could make it into the ranks of “officer” if he could pull it off so he started planning immediately. He developed his skill in open water swimming at every opportunity stripping off whenever he saw open water whatever the weather. He spent many months secretly reviewing the physical qualities and phyche of the bashers assessing their strength and sea durability. After much deliberation he secretly recruited a team of 7 men - the fittest, healthiest bashers known to man, oh and Bobbiball!!! He started a severe training regime including sea swimming and the art of camouflage whilst in the sea. As can be seen when he finally revealed this highly trained team they could hardly be seen having mastered looking remarkably like a group of floating Buoys at sea!



Now we can all sleep easier in our beds knowing our beloved coast line is being protected by the TVPB Navy Buoys!

Bashers that are crashers: The bashers have really had a crashing summer! It is evident however that they also showed their “no sense no feeling” side by all managing to continue cycling despite multiple cuts and bruises! It started with Bothways coming a cropper. When cycling on a cycle track 50 miles from the end of her epic end “End to End” cycle ride, Plymouth council cunningly disguised a kerb on a cycle track as a white line which she hit with her front wheel! Determined to finish the cycle a quick trip to get plasters and she was back on the bike!

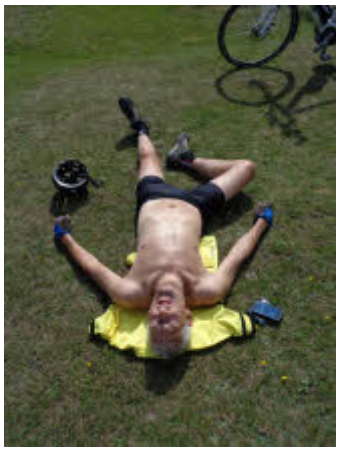
Dandy had a battle with a car recently at high speed and sadly lost sustaining quite a few scraps to his knees, hands and a broken rib. Whilst over taking a bike the rider suddenly veered right pushing Dandy into the path of an on coming car. The good news is he can be repaired, the sad news for him is his bike did not make it through the crash and has been written off - I guess this means Dandy will have to just carry on working for a few more years to pay for a new one!! In true basher style, he dusted himself off the next day and creaked off to Wales to join Plugger for his Off road riding weekend!

Jed unfortunately had an argument with some roped cones on the way home from the bash. He claimed he couldn't see the rope between the cones at Drum bridges as he flew over the handlebars and face planted on the new tarmac - not sure if he should be looking for a brighter night light or start drinking “light” bitter!!! He still managed to get back on his bike for the millionaires tour a few days later !!

Gazza was knocked off his bike on the millionaires tour recently. It was not exactly a high speed accident, more of stationary shove by a car driver eager to get off the ferry on the Isle Of Wright. The car driver apparently managed to shove Gazza off his bike causing him to land in a heap on the floor. His only injury was to his “pride” which as you can see from the photo he provided for us fortunately did not have any affect on his “art work”!! He too managed to get back on his bike and continue the tour with the ‘ass’istance of “Thatcher gold” painkilling medication!

Bashers that are Crashers: Plugger became a late entry into this category following an “innocuous” off road crash (Manky’s exact words!) which resulted in some spectacular injuries! He apparently landed on his left side whilst off-roading on a Sunday ride causing a multitude of injuries including broken ribs, punctured lung, small break to the hip socket and a partially dislocated shoulder damaging the ligaments holding the collar bone in place and bruising to the thigh. Patch was heard to say afterwards “if only he had landed on his head he would not have had any injuries then”! Torbay hospital performed a CT scan of his head to look for any damage to the brain - it showed no recent brain bruising however it did show a gapping hole in the area of the brain which is know to contain the “survival instinct” !!! Plugger has now returned home following a short spell in Torbay whilst being put back together!

The Millionaires tour: A very successful reconnaissance tour led by Hatrack. The small , carefully selected platoon patrol took them from the New Forest to Bournemouth then to “sea” venturing to the Isle of Wight on a 24 hour mission assessing the Islands enemy invasion protection plans. The Isle failed immediately showing a major flaw in their border controls by letting in this “motley” crew!! However there was one islander who has been commended by her actions as she tried single handedly to prevent what she thought was an Enemy invasion by trying to knock the bashers individually off their bikes !!. It appears from the pictures that the mission may have been extremely arduous and tiring with many bashers falling by the road side as the platoon continued to advance. From the pictures it looks like a great tour was had by all - well done to Hatrack for organising yet another successful mission.



Bothways and Always Wedding End to End charity cycle: The happy couple flew to Wick on June 5th to start their epic cycle - 1463 miles cycle over 21 days with a wedding at Gretna Green for charity - Cancer research and The Heart Foundation. The couple chose a “round about route” zigzagging across the UK. The route planning was a very in-depth process with great care and calculations - the couple looked at the map, put a mark on the areas they wanted to visit and where they knew people for free accommodation and then joined up the dots!!! Starting at John O’Groats, the couple cycle through 30mph head winds, torrential rain (day 1!!) and warm, dry sunny weather.

They carried their own kit and stayed in various types of accommodation ranging from Youth Hostels, Bunk houses, B&B’s, a manor house and with family. The route took them along cycle tracks, minor roads and some more major roads for short periods. They had 4 short ferry rides (Arran ferry, Hythe ferry and Tilberry docks) during the trip. The trip was an amazing experience for the couple as they cycled 1463 miles, saw some amazing beautiful ever changing scenery as they travelled from the top of Scotland, through England to its southern most point. They managed a total climbing of 80,508 feet (Mount Everest is only 29,035 feet). Their cycle included 1 Wedding, a seized jockey wheel (Lee), a bent derailleur, (Anna), 1 puncture (30 miles before lands End) (Lee) and a grazed knee and elbow 50 miles from the end (Anna), plus 2 sets of aching legs at the end (Lee and Anna). The couple managed to raise an amazing total of **£5600** including gift aid split equally between their two chosen charities, the Heart Foundation and Cancer Research. A BIG THANK-YOU to everyone that donated to their cycle ride, followed their facebook page and all the lovely wishes and comments that they had during their trip.

The Bobbiball Festival 2016

Date: 19th-21st February 2016

Venue: Wye Valley YHA

http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/wye-valley

Cost £55:00 per person fully inclusive

2016 sees this great weekend revisit a favourite location set in 25 acres on the banks of the River Wye, in the heart of the Royal Forest of Dean, close to Symonds Yat Rock, This old Victorian Rectory offers ample space for the group to chill out. For an amazing cost of only £55 the weekend includes 2 gourmet evening meals cooked by our resident chef, who has years of experience in producing tailor made meals required to meet the high nutritional needs of our supreme athletic cyclists, ensuring no one's riding performance is affected by malnutrition! Also included are full cooked breakfasts each day, a light pub lunch Saturday and lively evening entertainment with a variety of alcoholic beverages to prevent "dehydration" . A variety of snacks, cakes and nibbles will also be available for those individuals experiencing those unexplained "midnight munchies!" Both evenings offer dancing for those energetic people, with Saturday evening being "PARTY Night" including dancing till late and optional fancy dress if revelers are brave enough. For the quieter members of the group a separate lounge area is available for chatting and chilling. For those Rugby fans in the group there is a large TV to ensure that no match is missed!. The area has easy access to the Forest of Dean, offering great mountain biking including tricky single tracks, rooty climbs, technical drop off's and sketchy hairpin bends. The hostel is centrally situated to provide ideal road cycling on quiet lanes.. For the non cyclists of the group the area offers plentiful walks. 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!
The weekend provides two amazing "led"off road rides by our "expert" local guides who combine cross country cycling with technical riding around the Forest of Dean ensuring great cycling is enjoyed by all levels of cyclists. Two 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 for a light lunch before continuing the cycling for those energetic people,or returning to the hostel for those requiring "afternoon tea". All rooms are pre-allocated so please let us know who you would prefer to share with on booking.
Please email me for bank details: bothways@tvpb.org.uk

This weekend remains at an amazing cost of only £55 per person staying in the hostel and £30 if staying in a campervan. A £10 deposit to Anna is required to secure your place on the Bobbibal festival with full payment by the end of December.

Places will go quickly so HURRY to avoid disappointment

Campervan option: Parking is available on site for smaller vans or in a lay-by a short walk from the hostel at a cost of only £30:00 all inclusive.
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 appox 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)