

Christmas Bash: Again yet another great start to festive weekend - 'Twas the Sunday before Christmas when all through Dawlish, not a person was stirring except 70 cyclists all in fancy dress! Under the watchful eye of their leader Pottsie the group fell into formation for their annual Christmas parade. Their mission was "to bring laughter and cheer to the people of Dawlish". To do this their orders were to dress up in "weird and wonderful" outfits and cycle around the town singing Christmas carols and spreading festive cheer as loudly as they could.



With the platoon in formation Pottsie lead the inspection with pride - there was French men and women with onions, super hero's, Policemen, villains, Ninjas, wild animals, clowns, royalty, scouts,

Mexicans and Santa's in all different shapes and sizes ! The departure time arrived - the platoon posed for a group photo - and



then the clouds opened and the group rushed for cover in the sailing club!!! The rain fell - but Pottsie realised the mission had to go on so he raised the bugle to his lips and blew hard. As the sound reverberated around the empty parade ground the platoon jumped to attention, hopped onto their bikes and road down the road with the rain hitting them hard, the wind bitterly chilling any exposed extremities but determined to complete their mission. A very wet, soggy and cold group arrived at Dawlish Warren for mince pies, wine and a Christmas carol.

Dawlish Warren for mince pies, wine and a Christmas carol.

With the rain still falling many of the more mature wet and soggy bashers turned round and retreated to The Ship at Starcross to warm up. The more hardy of the platoon continued to fight the elements



determined to complete their mission. A very wet and cold group finally arrived in Dawlish but they still remained



very festive having brought great cheer to all who saw them as they cycled along the route. They warmed and dried themselves out by leaning on radiators whilst drinking beer and eating sausage rolls. To complete their assignment the remaining group pedaled away from the pub for their return journey as the sun finally came out and the rain dried up!. The whole platoon were reunited at the fishing and cruising club to celebrate their successful mission with a well earned hot festive meal. This was followed by much merriment with drinking and disco dancing into the evening. At the end of the evening many cyclists were seen "wobbling" home on their bikes still sharing their festive cheer to all those they cycled past!!!! It was a brilliant bash start to the Christmas week. A BIG thank-you to Pottsie and his team of helpers for all their hard work in organising the event.



Birdseye would like to wish all its readers a very HAPPY NEW YEAR here's to a great 2016

Fallen Womens "Home Made Face Lifts" Sadly age creeps up on us all and as we know with age comes wrinkles. Fallen women is no exception to this phenomenon. However, within the bash women's section questions are being asked as to how she is managing to keep her youthful looks. Many have been heard to say "she doesn't look a day over 21" (however they may not have had their glasses on!) some are even suggesting that she may have been having plastic surgery to maintain her youthful looks. This is supported by the fact that every 2 years she appears to have suffered some form of facial trauma which is linked to cycling. Birdseye finally confronted Fallen Women recently to find out the truth - "had she had a face lift"? Her reply was quite unexpected. She denied she had been to a plastic surgeon for a face lift "Broken man could never afford that" she explained, however she then went on to explain that she had in fact had a face lift but it was a "home made" face lift. She had read about it a couple of years ago in a cycling magazine and thought she would give it ago. She tried it and was so impressed with the results that when she noticed the wrinkles beginning to appear recently (2 years after her last treatment) she did not hesitate to perform the procedure again. She is very happy for other bashers to use the same method but she warns that it should not be performed more frequently than on a 2 yearly basis. So this is what you do - whilst cycling down hill on your road bike you lose control and face plant on the tarmac - the force of you sliding along the tarmac will remove any old wrinkly skin. After a couple of weeks new fresh unwrinkled skin will cover the raw flesh that has been exposed leaving you with radiant unwrinkled skin. A word of warning is that this method is not for the faint hearted. It will be painful (alcohol consumption will help), it can leave your face looking very bruised and swollen for quite a few weeks and there is a potential risk of causing extreme injury if care on falling directly onto your face is not maintained.



Disclaimer: This face lift method has no medical research to support the claims of its effectiveness or safety. Birdseye does not take any responsibility for anyone who attempts this and suggests anyone thinking of trying it should consult a medical Doctor before attempting it.

A Blast from the past: taken nearly 28



years ago this happy couple haven't changed a bit! - well one has slightly more dents on his body work now!!!



Pottsie's 80th Birthday Bash: In January Pottsie turned 80, its amazing that he has managed to survive to this great age yet alone still manage to ride his bike (although he does tend to fall off a lot !!!!!) Did he sit down and let this great age slide past quietly - No he did not! He invited all his bashers to join him to celebrate in style with a birthday bash cycle ride followed by a birthday party at Dawlish Warren. It was a lovely day enjoyed by a large number of his bash friends and family. There was a very tasty buffet laid on with the help of his bash helpers - Bedpig, Poppy, Nightmare to name a few. There was beer/cider and wine flowing and the celebrations continued into the early evening. Pottsie

Pottsie's 80th Bash Ride



is, and always will be the "back bone" of the TVPB. When his "hashing legs" gave up he came up with the idea of a "cycle bashing" club - since then his club has grown from strength to strength and has developed into this friendly, supportive, welcoming club that we now all enjoy today. Its ethos still remains true to his

original idea of of "drinkers with a cycling problem". It is a social club for cyclists of all abilities, male, female or unsure, on or off road, fast or slow, manual or electric, youthful or more mature. Its members have no demands or limitations expected of them except a £10.00 membership fee which the club returns in functions throughout the



year. There are day cycles/ weekends away and holidays for all to enjoy. With Pottsie at its helm, bashers have met and many friendships have been formed, some bashers have even fallen in love at this club. It has seen many marriages and some children have even been born. Bashers leave at times but they always return and are always greeted with open arms. We owe all this to Pottsie - so Birdseye would like to say a very BIG

THANK-YOU to Pottsie for all his hard work over the years in developing such an amazing club, and may he have many many more happy years of cycling with bedpig at his side, whilst leading the TVPB to new pastures far and wide.

Bash Oscars 2016: At last all those months of worry and sleepless nights have come to an end for another year - had you done something or been seen to do something stupid that deserved public humiliation by being awarded a bash oscar?! The awards returned to its favourite, glittering high class venue - the Jolly Farmer in Newton Abbot . As compare , Pottsie was on sparkling form with his "new jokes and stories" entertaining his troops throughout the proceedings. Many awards were presented, recognising achievements within the bash, either for hard work and general stupidity. Plugger won the crasher of the year outright as there was limited competition. The ever expanding electric section of the bash was recognised. The awards were tinged with sadness when Ziggy's award for the best newcomer was presented posthumously, and was collected by his daughter. Below are a list of all the winners - Congratulations to all.



Drinker of the Year: Gary "Gassa" Clifford.
 Ladle and Pen Award: Tim "Bucktu" Davenport.
 Most Promising New Male Basher: Graham "Ziggy" Zimble.
 Most Promising New Female Basher: Amanda "Bats" Batten.
 Top Bash Camp 2015: Bruce "Trucker" Prowse.
 Top Bash Pub 2015: Glen and Maria at The Jolly Farmer, Newton Abbot.
 Tandem Award 2015: (For Woodovis Park weekend) Julie "Fallen Woman" Ridd, and Tony "Broken Man" Ridd.
 Crash King 2015: Jon "Plugger" Dykes.
 Top Electric Biker 2015: "Sticky" Dick Owen.
 Best Offroad Basher 2015: Stuart "Spiderman" Blundell.
 Achievement Award 2015: Anna "Bothways" Atkinson and Lee "Always" Atkinson.
 Cranker of the Year 2015: Rob "Hatrack" Clifford.
 Supreme Basher 2015: Ian "Blaster" Glendinning.
 Downhill Glide Champion (Male): Gary "Gassa" Clifford.
 Downhill Glide Champion (Female): Amanda "Bats" Batten.



Goodbye Ziggy: Sadly basher Ziggy passed away suddenly but peacefully in his sleep on the 28th January. It was a great shock to both family and friends as there had been no indication of ill health and he had been bashing till the very end. He was just 72 years old, one of our younger bashers!! He had finally found the bash late in life and had only been cycling with the group for less than a year. He attended most of the FART rides on Tuesday's and Thursdays and became a well liked and popular basher throwing himself into the bash life style with ease. He took over from Phoebe as the FARTS official photographer. Most of his pictures appeared on the TVPB



facebook page ensuing embarrassing bash photos were updated on a weekly basis!!!!. Ziggy was a family man leaving 3 children and 6 Grandchildren. His funeral service was very moving with tributes and poems from family and friends. The TVPB organised a ZIGGY wreath and 20 bashers attended the humanistic ceremony tying personal tributes to his bike during the wake and ensuring he had a traditional bash send off. Being a "new basher" he was nominated for the "best new basher" award which is voted for by bash members - this was posthumously awarded to him, and his daughter Samantha was presented with the award at the TVPB bash awards. He will be remembered

with great fondness and his photos will be missed by all.

Bash Mistress retires: Phoebe has stepped down from her post as the bash mistress due to family commitments. Diamond Lil, without hesitation immediately offered to step into her shoes, an offer Pottsie accepted. Pottsie said of the new Officer - " I have no doubt she will be a formidable mistress who will ensure that the bash will have an identified ride available for every Thursday and Sunday". Lord stretch stood proudly by her side as the news of her promotion was made public - "She certainly has a great method of persuasion which I always find difficult to say no to - I am sure if she uses the same tactics on other bash members she will have no trouble filling her slots" - if this picture is anything to go by I am sure Diamond Lil will have a queue of bashers waiting outside her door to be persuaded to set a bash ride and fill her available slots!!



The Bobbibal Festival 2016: What a festival this year - we revisited a favourite cycling area in the Forest of Dean. The YHA Wye Valley is a remote hostel in Welsh Bicknor on the rivers edge. The first challenge of the weekend is navigating down the steep, muddy, ruddy downhill track with treacherous hairpin turns to the hostel!. Its saving grace is a foot bridge that allows the campervanners to park across the river and walk over and also allowed the rides to start without having to cycle back up the hill each day - or so we thought! We arrived to find 3 days earlier a tree had hit the bridge making it impassable. Fortunately the organisers love a challenge!! quickly relocating the campers to the top of the hill with the larger campers staying in the local school car park with transport to the



venue for each evening. Pidler decided he would try to get his camper down to the hostel and rivers edge which he managed but getting out was another story! Fortunately he did not block the only access route to the hostel for long, as Spanners jumped into action by towing him up the hill!!! It has to be said he was one of many who got stuck in the mud over the weekend getting up that hill with bashers required to perform running repairs to the road surface at regular inter-

vals.

The weekend was well supported with 60 cyclists from the TVPB regiment, the Green Badger brigade and new Bobbibal “virgins”. The group met on Friday evening looking forward to a weekend offering “more fun than you can legally have” and they were not disappointed all except for Manky who only managed 15 minutes before being called home again due to family illness!. With plenty of alcohol and good Italian food produced by Bucktu, Friday evening was spent chatting and meeting everyone.



The group woke to a cold dry morning and after a cooked breakfast the group separated into the “off” and “on” road sections. The “off” roaders lead by Ken-The-Rave and Spoons in true off road tradition chose to have “up lifts” to get out of the hostel area so the group drove round to the initial planned start. However, the roadies lead by Bothways and Always did not get this option as they had to cycle up and over to the original start meeting at the school to pick up Fallen Women and Broken Man. Sadly the weather was not kind and the rain very quickly set in.



Both groups ended up taking cover in the Forest with the head bangers doing the technical down hill routes whilst the road riders enjoyed cycling along the tracks and old railway lines around the forest. At all times Always kept the group 5 miles from the pub stop in Cinderford. At 13:30 the 2 rather soggy, muddy and cold groups were reunited at the White Hart Pub for a warming curry and a few beers to regain their strength before setting off for the afternoon ride back to the hostel. The Off roaders stayed in formation as they left the pub however the road riders seemed to split up and leave in many different directions with some making their way back in an unorganised manner via a pub or two!!!

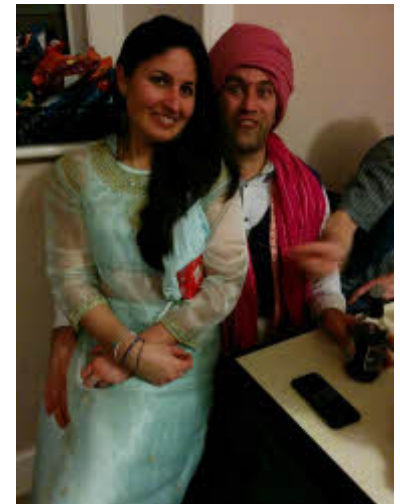


On return to the hostel the groups warmed up and dried off with hot tea, home made cake and plenty more beer as they discussed the highs and lows of the cycling. There was a couple of minor casualties from the ride - Cosmic having taken a spectacular tumble sustaining minor grazes to the knee and Joe not quite managing to unclip on the road ride injuring his knee but mainly his pride! Saturday evening was cowboy and Indian night. The dining room was transformed into the "Wye Valley" saloon, Bobbibal became a "wanted" man with a reward of \$100,000 dollars hanging over his head for money laundering, Hank managed to produce an amazing "Wild West



themed" menu despite

the hostel kitchen trying to "nobble" him at every opportunity with 1 oven breaking down, 1 oven door sticking and a lack of cooking trays fitting into the only available oven during the day. After the meal the group enjoyed a



"sudden death" tin can shooting game won by Spoons. The whole group made a real effort in the fancy dress competition with cowboys, Indians, saloon girls but the winners were Sarah and Faggots with their "alternative Indian" idea. With line dancing and DJ Cosmic Cowboy providing the tunes, the group partied again into the early hours of the morning.



Sunday turned out to be a much nicer day, sunny and dry but still cold. After breakfast the group worked hard cleaning the hostel before again going their separate ways with the Off roaders again



choosing the “uplift” option with many of the roadies joining this option except Bothways and Always who climbed



over the hill again!! There was also a “walking” group. The head bangers again ventured into the heart of the forest whilst the roadies cycled up to Symonds Rock, over to Monmouth and then followed the flat trail back to Symonds Yat. There

were few that returned to the hostel mainly due to the “fear” of the road back to the hostel!! It was a great weekend enjoyed by all. A BIG thank you to our Chefs Bucktu and Hank who worked their magic both evenings to produce amazing food in large quantities with limited equipment, and to the ride leaders for their hard work in scouting out the routes and leading them without losing anyone and to everyone that came on the weekend, and to all that helped out during the weekend cooking breakfasts, washing up and for everyone there who made the weekend the great success that it was. Also a BIG thank-you all those

who tried to drink us dry (but did not quite succeed) by helping drink the following amount of alcohol: 215 pints real ale, 30 pint lager, 144 cans cider, 18 bottle red wine, 15 bottles white wine, 10 bottles rose, 2 bottles sweet wine plus whatever people brought in the pub and supplies they brought themselves - the van was certainly lighter going back than going! Watch this space for news of the Bobbibal festival 2017 !!



New TVPB bash ride rules: Pottsie has decided that the rule for setting a Sunday bash ride needed reviewing. Over the past year whilst cycling he recognised that the basher platoon



average age is increasing. The bashers are getting slightly older and slower with many now opting to join the electric brigade. He is aware that with age comes tiredness which is becoming more and more evident on the bash rides with bashers having to stop by the road side for 50 winks. So to ensure that all bash needs are met on Sunday rides the ride leader must incorporate a sleep stop during the ride. It should be in a quiet area so they will not be woken. They should be provided



with soft dry ground or seating to ensure that they are comfortable. It is advisable to bring an alarm clock to ensure that the bashers do not oversleep and miss their pub stop before ending the cycle!!



TVPB new cycling kit: Our quarter master Bagpuss is planning to create new TVPB cycling tops (not an easy task!!). Halfords are currently stocking 2 styles of inexpensive yellow bodied summer weight cycling tops. Short sleeves £10 & Long sleeves £15 which he is considering but he needs your help. These tops are quite inexpensive and it may be that you want a better quality top and you do not mind spending the extra cash. Please can you let the Quarter Master Bagpuss or Pottsie know if you would be prepared to buy one and PAY for the bash to print TVPB details on it because if there's enough support this may be an option. However, a heavier fabric top for colder weather is still required so if ever you see any yellow cycling tops that could be "TVPB FIT FOR PURPOSE" (wearable, stretchy, bright yellow and comes in all sizes! then let them know. If you do not help then rumor has it that Noddy will be taking over this role and judging by his regular clothing style and colour scheme we certainly do not want this to happen!!!



Pottsies Exeter Suburb Tour: Pottsie recently led a brilliant ride around Exeter. It was a well supported Sunday ride from the New Inn Alphington. He managed to link quieter side road, cycle tracks and lanes allowing the bash to safely circumnavigate around Exeter through the inner suburbs to the outskirts of the city. On the return journey he managed to lose all but 2 of the bashers with the others following their own alternative routes! It was interesting to see Exeter by bike and showed that inner city cycling can be a fun bash ride.