



*... twice the fun ...*





phone: 01252 673587  
 mobile: 07747 096595  
 email: andy@purplebikeshed.com  
 web: www.purplebikeshed.com

mobile bike repairs around hampshire, berkshire and surrey

We can collect and return your bike or service it at your home or at your place of work.

Whether your tandem needs cables replacing, eccentric bottom bracket adjusting, Arai drag brake servicing, or kiddy cranks fitting, give us a call to discuss your requirements.

In addition to our normal cables, we also hold a limited supply of Tandem Ride-On Goretex cables.

Are you considering buying a Tandem for the first time? Are you not sure how to ride the Tandem and not sure you will get the most out of it. We can teach you the basics of starting, stopping, getting on and off and smooth gear changing. You'll be riding like professionals in no time at all.

If there is *anything* you need doing to your tandem. Give us a call and we would be happy to talk it through.






**Personalised Club Pin-on Badges  
and Fridge Magnets**

*New design now available!!  
Also replacement badges for most  
UK and International rallies!!*

Please send 3 first class stamps *per item* ordered, plus 1 stamp *per order* towards p&p, stating what you want and the names required (clearly printed), plus your name, address and phone number to:

Pat & Mike Strauss  
5 Upper Hall, Worcester Road  
Ledbury HR8 1JA








Actual badges are 2.25 inches across.



## The HELTON Car Roof Tandem Carrier

**Load your Tandem the easy one person way!**

Fully adjustable to all tandems and roof bars.

Send sae for brochure featuring details.

Video demonstration available on youtube -

[http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=heltontandemcarrier&aq=f](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=heltontandemcarrier&aq=f)

**£195  
plus £17  
p&p**

**D. Hellowell, Helton Frame Sets**  
 (a division of Honley Cycles)  
 47 Bradshaw Road, Honley  
 Holmfirth, W. Yorks HD9 6DX  
**Telephone 01484 661672**

[www.heltontandemcarrier.co.uk](http://www.heltontandemcarrier.co.uk) email: david.hellowell@ntlworld.com



# CONTENTS



EDITORIAL.....	4
NEWS & VIEWS.....	5
LETTERS.....	5
2012 RALLY INFO.....	9
NEW MEMBERS.....	10
EXPENSES REMINDER.....	11
INTERNATIONAL LIAISON.....	15
CZECH REPUBLIC FOR AN INTERNATIONAL RALLY?.....	17
WHITHER THE CHAIRMAN.....	19
CLUB VOLUNTEER POSITIONS/SITUATIONS VACANT.....	20
KIDS' PAGE.....	26
LUCTON RALLY REPORT.....	27
REGIONAL ROUND-UP.....	34
BAZAAR.....	42
WHAT'S ON.....	43
<i>AN EARLY ANCESTOR AND DAISY, DAISY.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>GET FIT YEAR – NOT QUITE!.....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>BOOK REVIEW.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>THE CHRISTIE CHARITY.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>TRAVELS WITH A RECUMBENT TANDEM TRIKE.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>FLAT FUN IN SOME SUN.....</i>	<i>31</i>



**CREDITS:** Photos within articles by Authors, unless otherwise stated.  
Front Cover: West County September ride - see page 41 (photo by Neil Wheadon)  
Rear Cover: Michael Fuller - see article page 12

FREE to Members only

Copyright: © The Tandem Club 2011

**EDITOR:** Linda Bailey, 63 Silverberry Road, Worle, Weston-super-Mare BS22 6RY  
email: [editor@tandem-club.org.uk](mailto:editor@tandem-club.org.uk) Tel: 01934 516886 (emails preferred if possible)

**All copy for next issue before 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2011 please.**

**OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS JOURNAL ARE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE TANDEM CLUB. ACCEPTANCE OF ADVERTISEMENTS DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT.**

## USEFUL INFORMATION:

[www.tandem-club.org.uk](http://www.tandem-club.org.uk)

**Secretary:** Peter Hallowell  
25 Hendred Way, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2AN email: [secretary@tandem-club.org.uk](mailto:secretary@tandem-club.org.uk) Tel: 01235 525161

**Renewals & Change of Address:** Caroline Hobbs, 9 Redstone Park, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 4AS  
email: [renewals@tandem-club.org.uk](mailto:renewals@tandem-club.org.uk)

**Membership Secretary:** Sheila Ward  
34 Avenue Road, Lymington, Hants. SO41 9GJ email: [tc.membership@virgin.net](mailto:tc.membership@virgin.net) Tel: 01590 671205

Subscription Rates:	1 year	5 years
Full Member	£10	£40
First Joint Member	FREE	FREE
Second and subsequent Joint Members	50p	£2

All cheques payable to The Tandem Club

Joint members are entitled to all the benefits of the Club except a copy of the Journal. Joint Membership is available to anyone who rides regularly with a Full Member but at least one applicant must take out Full Membership.

Welcome to volume 238.

As usual we have a selection of lovely articles written by our members, along with some short fillers – three from Bill Tordoff and another Book Review – this time from Tony Prichard. After reading the previous book review mentioned in issue 236, I borrowed the book from my local library and had a really enjoyable read – many thanks to Janice Morris for bringing this to our attention. I will now have to contact Tony and ask to borrow “The Bicycle Book” that he has reviewed on page 15. If any other member has a bicycle type book that they have enjoyed, then how about writing me a short review? Ideally a maximum length of one page, but half a page is also good, as is just a couple of sentences, along with the book details. These items are always very interesting as well as being a good small space filler!

Fortunately, I still have some articles waiting to go in, although many of these are between six and ten pages long and I often do not have that much space available. How about members sending me in a few shorter articles too – along with a couple of photos?

Now onto the boring, serious stuff. Any recreational club like ours requires an on-going influx of members to help organise it. The more members that step forward, the less the burden on any individual. Please have a read of page 20 which lists various club vacancies, some rather critical, both now and coming up next year. One of these vacancies being for my job – Editor.

By next Easter, I will have produced 34 magazines over the last 5½ years and I have thoroughly enjoyed doing the job, although often it has been difficult finding the time to fit it in with my full time paid employment. Unfortunately I have had some minor health issues the past year which have had a major impact on my life and have resulted in me not being able to ride for the last 15 months. I shall be having another operation at the end of October and I hope that by February next year I can start riding again. Trying to manage a full time job, handling the club magazine and having health issues has been very difficult and I have decided to step down from the role after issue 241. If anyone feels that they can take on this role, I would be pleased to hear from them. The club is also after a new Chairman, Regional Officer Co-ordinator, Club Historian and Racing Secretary, as well as an ordinary member or two. If any member would like more information on these roles, then please contact the Club Secretary – details on page 3.

My thanks to Angela Morris, who did most of the layout for this issue. She has been handling the composition when I have not been able to deal with it myself.

Our Touring Events Co-ordinator, Tony Prichard, has compiled a list of the major club events for 2012. Please read page 9 for the details and I am hoping that I may see some of you on one or more of these events, later on in the year.

**LINDA BAILEY**



## LONDON CYCLE MAP CAMPAIGN

I'm delighted to say that over 1,000 people have now signed the London Cycle Map Campaign petition (<http://www.petition.co.uk/london-cycle-map-campaign/>) which is being run by *Cycle Lifestyle* magazine ([www.cyclelifestyle.co.uk](http://www.cyclelifestyle.co.uk)).

Fittingly, the 1,000th signature was accompanied by a comment which really says it all: "*Love this idea, great for tourists and locals.*"

Public interest in the London Cycle Map Campaign is intensifying as the 2012 London Olympics approaches. With millions of visitors and hundreds of millions of viewers around the world rolling up for the 'greenest Olympics ever', the capital is calling out for a better system of cycle routes and mapping.

**BEN IRVINE, BSc, MA, PhD**  
*CYCLE LIFESTYLE EDITOR*

---

**Editor's Comment:** At time of the magazine layout there were 1,445 signatures. You may wish to add yours.

---

## SUSTRANS NEW NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK MAPS

These brand new maps are all you need to go and explore all the fantastic National Cycle Routes between Bristol and Uxbridge. They include the Kennet & Avon Canal, Bristol and Bath railway path, Colliers Way and many other traffic-free routes. Five family friendly, circular day rides on each map make these a winner for families too.

For more info see <http://sustrans-info.org.uk/6EB-JNJG-221U2AS32D/cr.aspx> or phone them on 0845 113 00 65.

---

## LETTERS



Dear Editor

### NEW COFFEE STOP

I think readers might find the following entry useful - New coffee stop near Wells, Somerset. Fenny Castle House Tea Rooms is open Tuesday to Sunday 10.30-5.30. Esme and Alastair Martin offer excellent refreshments including light lunches. They are about 3 miles from Wells with great views, accommodation and bicycle hire.

See [www.fennycastle.co.uk](http://www.fennycastle.co.uk)

**TIM HOYLE**

Dear Editor

## ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

This is a bit different from the usual articles. I am 51 and my wife Joy is 53. We have been riding our two trusty Longstaff tandems for almost 20 years and during that time I have amassed almost 100,000 miles (some on solos). This has been great fun and has involved lots of tours and day rides and has kept us both pretty fit and helped with weight management. I have low blood pressure, low BMI, resting pulse of 40 and no cardiovascular disease or diabetes. I have never smoked, am not overweight and we drink only a small amount. I have recently being diagnosed with atrial fibrillation. It really started in 1997. I wake up with racing heart rate and then get lots of missed beats and irregular pulse rate. This has happened probably 6-7 times over the years and is very scary. Only in the most recent episode was it categorically proven to be A-Fib. My web based research indicates that cyclists and other endurance athletes (that is a bit strong when describing what we do, I think) are much more likely to get this condition than the sedentary population.

Normally A-Fib increases the risk of stroke but in so called Lone A-Fib cases i.e. there are no underlying other health problems, it seems not to. I am interested to know if other tandem club members have/do suffer from this condition and how they deal with it or manage the symptoms. My attacks are fairly short lived with the longest being 4 hours. They are scary nonetheless and despite the reading and research I find it very hard to calm down. Am I alone in the club or are there other A-Fibbers out there?

**DAVID POSTINGS**

07899900090

Dear Editor

## OUR LITTLE HELPER

I decided to send this information because I am so pleased and impressed with our motorised tandem.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike Edwards for the article (OUR LITTLE HELPER) which appeared in volume 236 of The Tandem Club Journal regarding fitting a battery powered electric motor to his tandem. Before I had read Mike's article I had searched all over the place including the internet but there was nothing within 100 miles of me. After reading the article I contacted a local retailer (Dan Haigh of Cycle Technology) who sold Trek electric bikes and asked if I had the kit delivered to his shop whether he would fit the kit to my tandem. I did appreciate it would be a learning curve for him so I was delighted when he said he would fit the kit. It did take a while to complete the task because Dan had to keep sending for odd items as the kit was not designed for a tandem. I must admit to being very sceptical that the 350 watt motor would be powerful enough to do the job I required. I live in a very hilly area of West Yorkshire. I have tested the power out on three different hills and on each occasion I thought, "This is not going to get us up to the





top of the hill,” and I was proved wrong each time. On one occasion I actually eased back because I didn't want to pass a young chap on the hill and spoil his day. A few years ago I was able to ride up these hills but now I can't get sufficient air into my lungs so I am extremely delighted with our newly motorised tandem.



Mike Edwards originally supplied the address of the retailer who supplies the kits but as that was a few months ago I have included it again. I have also included my email address and phone number should anyone be interested in motorising their tandem and wish to contact me.

The retailer is:

AlienOcean European Hub, 1 - 9 Plantation Street, Lochgelly, KY5 9LP.

Tel. 01592 780528, email: jim@alienocean.co.uk

**COLIN MARSLAND**

email: marindavel@talktalk.net, Tel: 01924 275895

---

Dear Editor

### **MOTORIZED TANDEMS**

Thank you for including my article on adding an electric motor to our tandem trike. This developed quite a lot of interest and as a consequence some members have fitted them to various club tandems. Imagine my embarrassment when at the Lucton Rally our one ceased to function. To be honest ours has worked faultlessly on the tandem for almost two years and all sorts of things can go wrong on a bike in this time. As soon as we arrived home I took advice from Roy at Alien bikes - he tested various components and the fault was found to be in the twist grip control. They replaced it and everything is now working well again. Despite the problem this couple of octogenarian riders managed to get out each day, which proves that we can still pedal.

**MIKE EDWARDS**

---

### **AN APOLOGY, THANKS AND A PLUG**

Those of you who attended my video presentation at Lucton will be aware that a group of latecomers received a mild rebuke for their tardiness. I was unaware they had been helping with the Ricketts Rockets entertainment and so must apologise to them this way. My thanks go to Norman, Tony, Eifion and Chris each of whom helped to overcome the vagaries of the School's video system so the presentation could go ahead. The Plug is for the Tinkers. One of my videos included a visit to a Tinker Rally - it was part of a Tour of France that we did with other cycling friends. Unfortunately the weather that year was not ideal for Tinkering, which is sailing inflatable dinghies, and several people were disappointed they had not been able to see one in action. May I therefore direct you to the Tinker Class Owners Association for details, and to Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/6364509> for a brief introduction to the dinghies and their use.

**ROY BRADSHAW**

---

# AN EARLY ANCESTOR OF THE TANDEM

The Duke and Duchess of Kent: on Tuesday, at five o'clock, upon their return to Kensington Palace, their Royal Highnesses had chairs, and sat on the walk at the east front of the Palace, when Mr Birch, the coach-maker, exhibited to them a curious constructed vehicle, called the Velocimanipede, or Phaeton in miniature, calculated to carry three persons. The Centre, or body of the carriage, is supposed to be for a female, the front is for a gentleman to sit on a narrow saddle to guide it. At the back is a small dickey\* to work the hind wheels by machinery. Their Royal Highnesses expressed their gratification at the ingenious contrivance.

**MORNING CHRONICLE, 13 MAY 1809**

\* Dickey, or dicky: "A seat at the front of a horse drawn carriage for the driver; a seat at the rear for the servants or a guard." *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*

---

## DAISY, DAISY GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER DO!

There is a flower within my heart,  
Daisy Daisy!  
Planted one day by a glancing dart,  
Planted by Daisy Bell!  
Whether she loves me or loves me  
not,  
Sometimes hard to tell;  
Of beautiful Daisy Bell!  
(Refrain) Daisy, Daisy, Give me your  
answer do!  
It won't be a stylish marriage,  
I can't afford a carriage,  
But you'll look sweet upon the seat  
Of a bicycle made for two!

We will go "tandem" as man and wife,  
Daisy Daisy!  
Ped'ling a-way down the road of life,

I and my Daisy Bell!  
When the road's dark we can both  
despise  
P'liceman and "lamps" as well;  
There are "bright Lights" in the  
dazzling eyes  
Of the beautiful Daisy Bell!

I will stand by you in "wheel" or woe,  
Daisy Daisy!  
You'll be the bell(e) which I'll ring, you  
know,  
Sweet little Daisy Bell!  
You'll take the "lead" in each "trip" we  
take,  
Then if I don't do well,  
I will permit you to use the brake,  
My beautiful Daisy Bell!

**HARRY DACRE, 1892**

(Both these items were submitted by William Tordoff – many thanks Bill!)



# 2012 RALLY INFORMATION

## EASTER

Good Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - Easter Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April

This year's Easter Rally will take place at the Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre in the New Forest National Park. Lodges with 2 and 4 bed/bunk rooms and Camping are available on the same site. Camping is available for an extended stay both before and after the rally.

## INTERNATIONAL TANDEM RALLY

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June

Near Granville, Normandy, France.

Camping, Chalets and Mobile homes are available.

## NATIONAL TANDEM RALLY

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August

Tandem 2012 will take place at Kettering Rugby Club, Northamptonshire.

Only camping facilities are available on site.

More details and booking instructions will appear in future Journals and on the Tandem Club Website.

**TONY PRICHARD**

(Touring Events Co-ordinator)

Tel: 01793 520734 e-mail: [tony@tandem-club.org.uk](mailto:tony@tandem-club.org.uk)

---

## INTERNATIONAL 2012 - FRANCE

The International in 2012 will be based at Camping Les Eaux in France, from Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June.

Situated close to the west coast of La Manche peninsula the site is a 5 star site with plenty of facilities, including an indoor and outdoor swimming pool, play areas, bar, games room and basic restaurant.

As well as the campsite, there will be cabins available.

The price will be in the region of £28 per couple per night, with children an additional £7. I admit that the price is higher than some other years but the site has excellent reviews and is a quality site that can accommodate us.

Rides will go to Granville, Coutances, Avranches and Mont Saint-Michel, so you'll experience beaches, towns and resorts.

The closest ferry is Cherbourg and the drive/cycle is about 120km. Cycling is a good option as there is a cycle route from Cherbourg running along a disused railway for much of its length.

A booking form will appear in the next journal, however if you would like to come, please email me at [Neil@Tandem-club.org.uk](mailto:Neil@Tandem-club.org.uk) so that I can give the campsite an idea of numbers coming.

**NEIL WHEADON**



*A VERY WARM WELCOME to the following new members:*

## **Tandem Club New Members 25/07/2011 - 23/09/2011**

Janet and Andrew Beardmore from Hinckley

Pete and Karen Beddall from Yateley

Lucy Berthoud and Kate and Eva Donaghue from Bristol

Lisa, David, Susannah and Gareth Bevan from Godalming, Surrey

Alison Blackman and Lionel Green from Stalybridge

Stephen, Andrea, Louise and James Bowcott from Epsom

Simon and Hayley Brown from Lytham St. Annes

Oliver and Caroline Burstall from Huntingdon

Peter and Eleanor Chaffer from Stocksfield, Northumberland

Hugh Dauncey from Wallsend, Tyne and Wear

David Daw from Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk

Alan Delaney and Pauline Wadham from Thatcham, Berkshire

Shaun Dicker and Louise Gall from Chichester

Graham Dore and Barbara Russell from Bournemouth

Sara, Mr W, Katharine and Philip Dorman from Edinburgh

David and Nadia Ebling from Crawley

Mark and Jillian Fagg from Faversham

Glyn and Helen Foley from Sheffield

Anthony and Wendy Fuller from Bury St. Edmunds

Richard and Anne Gill from Rye

Robert, Ruth, Mhairi, Samuel and Joel Gormley from Edinburgh

David Haward from Clynderwen

Christopher and Gillian Hewitt from Manchester

Kevin and Brigitte Hickman from Witney

Graeme Hodge and Jane Helyer from Chichester

Joanne and Jonathan Hooks from Aylesbury

Meike Koops and Robert Hall from Brentwood

James Ledger and Kate Kenyon from Herne Bay

Rob and Carolyn Lewis from Hungerford

Cliff and Sharon Loveday from Ely

David Marsh and Valerie Stewart from Southport

Keith and Victoria Martin from Worksop

Iain and Joy McEwen from Stamford

Iain Muir and Gail Bishop from Lincoln

David Nash from Nairn

Robert and Janet Partington from Chester

Tom and Robyn Ratajczak from Asheville North Carolina, USA

John and Jean Reynolds from  
Winsford

Alex Ross from Dundee

Richard and Angela Scarlett-Marshall  
from Luton

Matthew and Joanna Scholes from  
Richmond

Ben and Susan Stevens from  
Sheffield

---

## THE BIKER BIKED

Henpeck'd he was. He learnt to bike.  
'Now I can go just where I like',  
He chuckled to himself. But she  
had learnt to ride a bike as well as he,  
And, what was more, had bought a new  
Machine to sweetly carry two.  
Ever together now they go,  
He sighing, 'this is wheel and woe.'

**MR PUNCH AWHEEL**

Submitted by William Tordoff

---

## EXPENSES - A REMINDER

Thanks as ever to everyone who has been sending expenses to me over the months. It's always helpful to keep the accounts up-to-date as we go along.

Could I please remind everyone to let me have all their outstanding claim forms as soon as possible, so that we can make sure the accounts are complete at our year-end on 31st October? It means we can present an accurate and realistic picture to everyone at the AGM.

Please send them to me by post - Barbara Moir, 119 Fairway Avenue, Tilehurst, Reading RG30 4QB. Contact me by phone 0118 9412994 or email [treasurer@tandem-club.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@tandem-club.org.uk) if you have any queries.

**BARBARA MOIR**

---

Happy tandem riding!



# GET FIT YEAR - NOT QUITE!

The irony is that this was to be the year we were to get fit again after a fallow period of little cycling. And we did, eventually, starting with the tandem rally at Arundel (Easter), more regular rides with the Christchurch Bicycle Club and then Lesley's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday challenge of the Outer and Inner Hebrides for 15 days in June this year.

What a great trip this was too and every bit as challenging as I might have hoped.

Ok, so we didn't reach the fitness levels or energy levels of John and Sheila Ward, whose route we had followed, but we completed something shy of 500 often very hilly miles.



We were blessed with excellent weather during the entire trip, very little wind with only two half days of drizzle. It was markedly different from the weeks preceding and after our tour. We consider ourselves very fortunate. Michael was less content and would have loved somewhat higher temperatures.

We concluded the holiday with visits to friends in the north and city stays in Glasgow and Liverpool for a very rounded trip.

It was whilst cycling that Michael first became unwell with gastric problems which seemed like a replay of previous difficulties. He had little appetite even after tough cycling, some light headedness and he generally found the trip tough. He was only really ill, though, on one day in Liverpool, and it did little to detract from our enjoyment of that day. At the time, we put the problem down to the Persian food eaten the night before.

Returning home we sought some answers. Blood tests with a concerning result were followed by a gastroscopy some weeks later. We then had a 2 week wait for findings. Meanwhile we went on a family camping holiday in Swanage and then to the Lucton Rally.

It was great to catch up with friends and to enjoy the lovely area of Herefordshire. We managed two 40 mile days and two 25 mile days on the Tuesday and Wednesday when Michael was feeling rather under the weather. We even finished with the hill climb to Croft Castle! Inadvertently, I hasten to add, as we found ourselves caught up with this when we turned into the castle grounds and we were too proud to get off! At least I was, and I urged Michael to the top, something I now feel a little ashamed about.

We returned to Southampton early for a hospital appointment to get biopsy results and for a CT scan. This was the start of a week of increasingly bad news. We were told that Michael has cancer of the stomach before the scan. Sadly this then showed that the digestive system appeared to be blocked and that there were more tumours where it had spread to the small intestine.

So no chance of removing the stomach and cancer then. Next plan was to attempt a bypass of the duodenum creating a second channel from the stomach directly to the small intestine. He went to theatre on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September returning to be told that even this was impossible. So concluded the run of bad news. In less than a week our world was turned upside down. It was no surprise then, on the following Monday, to be told that chemo is also not an option.

So how is Michael doing? He was mightily glad to be discharged on the Saturday to the love and care of his family. He is facing his death in the same spirit as he has lived. He is still quietly funny, largely positive and dignified. It is a cruel disease and one that is rarely diagnosed until in advanced stages. The prognosis is poor but we do still have some precious time left to us.

We were given three pieces of advice:

No 1 Sort out business affairs

No 2 Sort out diet and nutrition

No 3 Live every day to the full.

This we had worked out for ourselves anyway and we do just that.

Any 'bucket list' that one might imagine having i.e. things to do before you die, has boiled down to spending as much quiet time with one another as possible (and this has not been easy). To spend time with family, children, grandchildren and wider family; they are coming each weekend, unless we ask them not to. To see as many friends as possible and to continue with key activities of weekly films, theatre, and most importantly to attend all home games at St Mary's.

To this end, it was a family party of seven, who went this last Saturday to see the Saints beat Nottingham Forest 3:2. A great time was had by all and Michael found the energy to keep going until 9.30 pm and said he felt great. This next weekend six of them are going, including daughter and daughter-in-law, both of whom have never seen a match before.



Finally, Michael is keen to get back on his solo bike to resume local activities and he is taking in as much food as possible to regain some weight and build strength. It is most unlikely that we will get back on the tandem as that requires more fitness than he is likely to realise.



We have a lot of good times to remember on the tandem and at Tandem Club events, and whilst Michael has resigned from a committee role, I intend to stay connected as the International Liaison person and I hope to see many of you again at future rallies and rides, even if I am on a solo.

Anyone need a stoker?



**LESLEY FULLER**



# INTERNATIONAL LIAISON

Do any Tandem Club members have contacts in the Europe/US/Worldwide who might be able to use or promote the use of my help to access tandem events or club rides on any visit to the UK?

The basic idea is simply to encourage overseas visitors to enhance their trip by exploring our beautiful country on their bike and to meet our friendly members.

Obviously there is a lot of information available to any potential visitor on the internet but personal contact can also be very useful to shortcut the searches and to explain the particular riding conditions in this country.

Thus far I have used the internet myself to find the above-mentioned contacts but because much of the information is out of date I have had little success. In the case of successful contact I have been able to explain this role and submit short articles for their club publications.

If you think you can help please let me know.

**LESLEY FULLER**

---

## BOOK REVIEW

Bella Bathurst  
The Bicycle Book  
London: HarperPress, 2011  
306pp. £16.99  
978 0 00 730588 9

Bella Bathurst is a writer and photographer. She writes both fiction and non fiction and has had articles published in the *Sunday Times* and the *Washington Post*.

The Bicycle Book is an exploration of arguably the last century's greatest transport success - the bicycle. Bella Bathurst is also a cyclist and tells the reader of the many different uses of the bicycle from personal transport through to commercial use and as a weapon of warfare. Within the pages of The Bicycle Book you will find a variety of unusual characters including the man who raced the *Indian Queen*. Chapters include Frame Building with Dave Yates, Feral Cycling and the Serious Men. Bella also introduces us to the science of cycling both of the machine and the rider.

An interesting book which I found hard to put down.

**TONY PRICHARD**

# THE CHRISTIE CHARITY

We are members of the Tandem Club and although we don't ride with the fledgling Peterborough and District division we are regularly seen around the cycle routes of our city at the weekend.

A dear friend was diagnosed with cancer 18 months ago and had been given only months to live before being referred to 'The Christie' and she is making steady progress thanks to this marvellous hospital.



The event is called the Christie Manchester 100 and you can ride 100 miles or 100 km and we chose the latter.

This event was the main reason for our decision to purchase our Dawes Double Twin aka 'Tilly' tandem and get in training. So after regular 35-40 mile rides we thought we were ready and we were apart from one thing!

East Anglia is well known for its flat and barren landscape and Cheshire is well known for its less than flat and more mountainous landscape.

So it was on September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7am with 60 miles ahead of us. Just under five hours later we ended up sore and tired, being hugged by this giant bear. (see photo)



We managed to raise over £700 for the cause and also advertised the fact that tandems are a serious way of getting around bearing in mind there were only three out of five thousand bikes on the day. Quite a few of the solo riders said that we'd made up their mind to purchase one...Sold!

The Christie is a good cause so if you do publish this can you also print my wife's just giving page in case someone might want to sponsor our effort.

<http://www.justgiving.com/frances-hair>.

(Editor's Comment: See also <http://www.christies.org/>)

We do at least one charity event each year and the solos are getting dusty in the garage as 'Tilly' is the preferred choice for charity rides!

**SIMON & FRANCES HAIR**

# CZECH REPUBLIC FOR AN INTERNATIONAL RALLY?

Dear Tandem Club friends,

Let me kindly introduce you to me and my wife, but most of all the splendid National Park Šumava (also known as the Bohemian Forest), which we would like to propose for the location of an International rally.



We are a young couple from the Czech capital – Prague, and we became passionate tandemists in 2008 (when we also joined the Club). We haven't had an opportunity to join you at any of the events so far, but as we more or less successfully progress through the typical struggles of young people (leaving school, buying first tandem, finding a job, finding a home, marrying

each other, etc. :-)), we hope, that we will make it to some event in 2012.

In the Czech Republic, we and our tandem are a constant curiosity literally everywhere we go, since there are so few tandems to be seen around – needless to mention, there is no local group. We have enjoyed reading your regular journals and found out many useful tricks on how to ride a tandem, so we would like to thank you by inviting you into the most beautiful natural park, which our country has to offer. Šumava National Park



stretches along the south-west border of the Czech Republic and it isn't new to us, as we have both returned there regularly from an early age (my wife's parents even have a kind of a cottage there), and not only do we know a lot of its history and where to go, we have also covered most of it on our tandem in recent years. The park itself is not that large (so it can be travelled through in a matter of days) and contains equally places of unspoilt nature, and tourist or historical landmarks alike (see photos). Unlike the other places, it has benefitted (now this may sound strange, to benefit from what follows) from being a part of the famous "Iron curtain" during the communist rule, when quite a large area was hermetically closed to the public for almost forty years for simply being close to the border with the western



world. On the other hand, the nature was left to itself for nearly a half of a century and soon after the revolution the area was declared a National Park in the early 1990s.



The marks of army presence were carefully swept away, leaving nothing but a quite dense network of narrow asphalt paths (for it was necessary for the soldiers to move through the forests quickly, just in case some imperialists had felt like coming into our homeland and transforming it into a cuckoo nest of capitalism, or so we were told by the propaganda at the time..). These are nowadays almost invariably closed to traffic, which

makes them ideal for cycling. Another contributing factor is that Šumava lies between 800 and 1200 metres above sea level, and although there are some rather steep hills, rides can be often planned to avoid most of them (but from our very own experience, there is not a single hill that could not be defeated on the tandem :-)).

Please allow me to talk about me and my wife again. We both are former international rowers, and while I had been studying Sports management, I had volunteered as head-coach assistant in my rowing club (so I have some experience with organising training camps, racing events, etc. - but not for hundreds of people, that's for sure). My wife, Katka, has a university degree in the field of Tourism, and is presently working for a small but successful local travel agency, organising ski-events in Austria for groups of about 80 people, so we both think we could be of practical use during rally preparations. On top of that, we still have a connection to a group of approx. 10 youth rowers, who could hopefully

volunteer during the event itself and we also have contacts with some trustworthy accommodation sites, as we have gone to Šumava for winter camps practically every year up until 2008.





The apparent negative aspect of the proposed location is the distance of the Czech Republic (670 miles/1070Km from Calais), which would require a good consideration within the Club before a decision is taken (some kind of survey on website and in journal perhaps?), but then again, what better excuse than a quarter century of International Tandem Rallies could you think of for travelling farther than usual? As I write these words, it also comes to my mind, that we would probably get good publicity even on national TV and/or Radio, for such a group of tandems in this environment simply could not pass without comment, especially given the attention we get when we stop elsewhere.

Very warm greetings from Prague,

**KATKA AND ROMAN HEŘMÁNKOVI**

---

I have corresponded with Roman and explained that the first available date is 2014! It would be nice to have another International Rally in August.

*Tony Prichard (Touring Events Co-ordinator)*

---

## WHITHER THE CHAIRMAN

The perennial plea for a new Chairman reported in the August issue of the magazine has made me decide to repeat a proposal we made years ago. Although a Chairman often comes from amongst the Officers, the duties and even the personality differ, from that of, say, the Editor or the Technical Officer, and so this route is not necessarily a foregone conclusion. Unfortunately the situation we are in at present, and have been for several years, means that without a system to make it easier for someone to take over as Chairman it is asking a lot of an individual to put their name forward without knowing something about what is involved. Furthermore, without a system it is difficult to elect a new Chairman without appearing to be dissatisfied with the current incumbent. In this instance Neil has been doing the job successfully for many years. He has been asking for a replacement for a number of years and now deserves a rest.

We proposed that we elect a Vice Chairman who would understudy the Chairman's duties for 2 years before taking over as Chairman at the end of that period. The new Chairman would then have a year when they concentrate solely on their Vision for the Club before a new Vice Chairman is elected to learn all that is necessary before taking over the reins. This way each person serves 5 years which is sufficient for anyone who needs to have the enthusiasm to be the guiding force of the Club.

Unfortunately our proposal was voted out at the time leaving us in the situation we have now where there is no obvious replacement for the current Chairman. Arguably the Chairman's job should be the easiest of all the Officers. Our Officers get on with the basic workings of the Club and all that is required is someone with enthusiasm and vision to keep the system ticking over and at the same time encourage the promotion of the Club. Not too difficult a task I suggest, and if we introduce the system we proposed now then the first incumbent will know that after 3 years they will be able to withdraw gracefully, that should be enough to encourage anyone with an interest in seeing the Club continue smoothly to offer their services. Please think about it.

**ROY BRADSHAW**

**Editor's Comment:** I like the idea of an "understudy" and that could be a good idea for other positions as well, such as Secretary and Editor. Treasurer is also an important position, although we do have an Assistant Treasurer. Members' comments are invited on this topic, although I would prefer that it goes on the Discussion Board as the magazine is limited for space. Please also read the plea for club volunteers, mentioned below!

## CLUB VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Like many clubs, the Tandem Club relies on volunteer members to fulfil various positions in order to maintain the smooth running of the club, which we all enjoy. These jobs range from organising a Sunday ride through to being club Chairman and many others in between.

Again, like most clubs, we are often short of volunteers and a few positions remain vacant since the last AGM and with us being halfway through the club year and now heading towards next year's AGM, I know that there will be a few more vacancies. So, here is a list of the current and soon to be vacancies. If you think you could assist in any of these six positions, then please contact the club Secretary, Peter Hallowell, whose contact details are on page 3.

---

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Editor</b>	<b>Regional Officer Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Ordinary member</b>	<b>Club Historian</b>	<b>Racing Secretary</b>
-----------------	---------------	--	----------------------------	---------------------------	-----------------------------

---

## SITUATION VACANT

### REGIONAL OFFICER(S)

required for the West Yorkshire group,  
to take over from January 2012

No previous experience necessary!

*For further details please contact the retiring officers*

*Steve & Anna 01535 658925*

*email: [westyorkshiretandemclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:westyorkshiretandemclub@hotmail.co.uk)*



# TRAVELS WITH A RECUMBENT TANDEM TRIKE

By the Rear Admiral and her Pilot

To people used to solo bicycles, a tandem is an oddity, a tandem trike is even stranger and a recumbent tandem trike is seriously weird. But that's what we've got: a Greenspeed Tandem Trike (GTT). We first bought this magnificent machine in 2000 and in the first year we took it to the Tandem Club Easter weekend at Stainforth, then did a double end-to-end, starting at home in Scorton (Lancashire) and riding down to Land's End and back and then after a month's break we rode from home to Cape Wrath, John O'Groats and back again. So far no-one has disputed our claim to be the first recumbent tandem trike to get to the lighthouse at Cape Wrath.



It's hard enough to get an ordinary tandem on a train; there's no way we could get the GTT on one. The only solution was to ride there and back and as Matt had taken early retirement, time wasn't a problem.

After a while, though, our initial enthusiasm faded. For one thing you can't really ride the GTT in a group. It's not just that the speed pattern is different, much slower uphill and much faster down, it's also that the recumbent riding position means you are about level with other riders' knees. Riders in a group look at their own eye level and don't spot someone much lower down. The two wheels at the

front of the GTT are also a problem; they steer like a car and could easily cause a whole peloton to crash if we turned sharply.

So apart from a few odd occasions when our conventional tandem was off the road and when I sprained my wrist, the GTT languished in the garage for almost a decade till we decided to give it another go this June.

Matt checked things over and declared the GTT rideable. We took it for a couple of test rides before setting off on our main holiday going first to York Cycle show and then on to Scotland. The GTT is comfortable, fun to ride and attracts attention wherever we go, but it isn't fast. On our Thorn upright tandem we can ride to York in a day: on the GTT we needed two days.



Last stop before home – B&B in the Old School in Tebay

It certainly attracts attention. During our end-to-end in 2000 I saw a car approaching on a single-track road in the north of Scotland. The occupants were certainly giving us plenty of attention. A man was leaning out of the driver's window with a camcorder. I opened my mouth to scream – then I saw the Spanish number plates and realised the car was left-hand drive.

Whenever we stop a group of interested passers-by gathers to admire the machine and ask questions. These are just some of the queries we get: Did we make it ourselves? No. It was made by Greenspeed, an Australian firm.



Does it have an engine? The only engine is the stoker.  
Is it hard/comfortable to ride? Difficult one, this. Sitting on a seat is more comfortable than perching on a saddle, pedalling can still be hard work, the aches just come in different places. One plus factor is that you always have somewhere to sit when eating your sandwiches.  
Aren't we scared that car drivers won't see us? Actually, no. On a bike or an upright tandem, drivers often don't allow you enough clearance, on something as peculiar as a recumbent tandem trike they generally give you a wide berth. Horses too, are scared by this strange machine.



The Pilot's eye view

As with all tandems there are the usual questions about who is in charge, who is the "driver" and do we ever swop places. The answer is of course the person in front steers and in our case at least we don't swop places because the seats and pedals are adjusted to our individual leg lengths.

How many gears do we have? Answer 72, but there are vast overlaps and not all gears get used. We have a standard cassette with three chainrings and eight sprockets to give 24 gears - like many solo bikes - then we have a hub gear that gives a low, medium and high transfer so effectively multiplying the gears by three.

After three weeks riding the GTT we have decided to use it again. It's fun even if it isn't fast. Let's face it, at our age speed isn't the most important thing.

**MARY HODGES**



## Our bike and us



**Thorn's designer, test pilot and touring Guru, Andy B. (pictured above with partner Fiona) share the experience of riding their very own Thorn Raven Discovery tandem.**

"I have owned many tandems. Some have cost, in real terms, twice as much as our Raven Discovery yet I can honestly say that "this is the best tandem I have ever ridden"

**"this is the best tandem I have ever ridden"**

Fiona and I prefer to take long cycle camping holidays together, on our solos but we also enjoy the immense exhilaration of riding a tandem together, consequently, as you can see, the "banana split" is set up for Audax riding, where the ultra rigid, yet very comfortable, double marathon frame allows us to make the most of our efforts... it also allows Fiona to "fidget" on the back without unintentionally steering the machine. The frame handles so

well that it allows us to out-corner the solos. Although we use ours for Audax rides, we could simply add a front carrier and some big bags and it would be more than ready for one of our major tours.

The Rohloff hub is a revelation for tandem use! When you need a low gear... it's there! If you stop in the wrong gear... you can start in the right one... without fuss! I would hate to have to use derailleur gears on anything other than a cyclosporitif solo bike again.

The XTR V brakes are very powerful and the tandem's long wheelbase allows us to take full advantage of them... we can out-brake any solo.





Because the brakes are so good and the bike handles so well, I am confident to let it roll on most descents... so we don't need the optional disc brake.

The optional S+S couplings enables the bike to easily fit into most medium sized hatch backs, bus holds, solo airline bike boxes or bike racks on trains." Andy Blance July 2006

**Arrange your test ride on a Raven Twin tandem today with Thorns 100 day 100% money back if not delighted guarantee\***



### About the Raven Twins

The Raven Twins are a family of three different tandems; they all use the ultra reliable 14 speed Rohloff hub, which offers many advantages for tandems. They all use our exclusive Thorn 969 (cold drawn, seamless, heat treated double butted) mega size 4130 Cro-Mo tandem-specific tube set, with Reynolds 531 tandem gauge, twin plate crown, forks. The comprehensive cable guides, which allow multiple brake options, are stainless steel, as are the 6mm bosses provided for front and rear carriers. All the frame sizes are available with or without S+S couplings, in a choice of three colours.

**Rohloff** 

14 speed internal hub gear

## Advantages

- > Minimum maintenance... hub totally sealed from grime
- > Low running costs
- > No weight penalty!
- > Rohloff state that nobody has **yet worn out**, or experienced a **total failure** with, one of their hubs... that's over ten years & 50,000 hub units!
- > **14 usable gears** (even spaced @ 13.6%)
- > **Excellent gear range** (526%)
- > Perfect chain line = less wear
- > Dishless rear wheel & shorter spokes make a much **stronger wheel**
- > **Quick, easy, wheel removal and fitting**... No Tools or adjustment required
- > Super **quick** gear change
- > Change as many gears as you want at any time even without pedalling
- > Indexing mechanism within hub so **cable adjustment is not critical**
- > No derailleurs to collect grime, get bashed or cause the chain to come off and jam... **No chain suck!**
- > **Chain slip can't happen** with our frame!
- > Service life **over 160,000km**
- > Much **cleaner** & easier to clean
- > [www.rohloff.de](http://www.rohloff.de)

\* available on all new complete Raven tandems.

[www.thorncycles.co.uk](http://www.thorncycles.co.uk)  
**Thorn Cycles Ltd.** 91-93 St. John Street,  
 Bridgwater, Somerset TA8 5HX  
 01278 441500 [sales@sjscycles.com](mailto:sales@sjscycles.com)

Shop 24/7 at the UK's most comprehensive online cycling store.

 **SJS**  
 CYCLES.COM



[www.sjscycles.com](http://www.sjscycles.com)



## LUCTON NATIONAL TANDEM RALLY

I loved making my pop bottle rocket. I used stickers from my magazines to decorate it. My dad helped me make the fins and nose cone.



William's Pop bottle rocket

I really enjoyed the castle playground at Croft Castle. I also enjoyed the Punch and Judy Show; it was very funny and good.



William on the back of Michael Hopkin's tandem

The Tandem games were fun. I had a go on the junior obstacle race and joined Michael on his Tandem for the Limbo contest.

I had a great holiday, playing with my friends and riding my bike and can't wait until the next rally.

**WILLIAM ACKLAM AGED 5½**



# LUCTON RALLY REPORT

This is a pictorial report as no-one has sent the Editor a written report and as I was not there, then pretty pictures will have to suffice. Fortunately the club has a lot of keen photographers, so that should give a good flavour of what was missed, to those of us that did not attend.



Photo above: Americans, Tom and Robyn Ratajczac, winners of the Hill Climb and the Triathlon. By Pat Strauss

All the following photos are by Dave Wilde and he comments: "As always on these rallies we did have a great time. Weather was better than expected, great scenery, manageable hills and as always the best was meeting up with old acquaintances - often in the queue for the meals!"

Velocio - Checkpoint in Kingsland



Wednesday - Hillclimb - The winners! (mens)







Wednesday - Testing the tandem -  
Where are the crank bolts?





Alan and Linda Piggot taken by Pat Strauss



## FLAT FUN IN **SOME** SUN

We pulled our equipment together in the car-park generating the usual nervous feelings. Would it all fit? Was it going to be achievable? Were a 4½ and a 1½ year old, two adults, one kiddi-back tandem and a bike and trailer really a recipe for a good family holiday?

Cycle touring in the Netherlands, as everyone says, again and again, is incredibly easy. The easy route guides, plenty of camping information, relaxed feel and vast quantity of bikes make you feel a welcome road user although wearing helmets does mark you out as not local! Courteous drivers, fantastic infrastructure and car-sized lanes dedicated to bikes on round-a-bouts make it a very safe place to ride with children.



We travelled on the Newcastle-Ijmuiden ferry having left the car in the UK; this overnight ferry gets you in early and is one of the children's holiday highlights in itself. Typically for a summer holiday in August it was raining when we arrived and raining hard, the puddles at the ferry-port appeared to be capable of swallowing lorries, but at least it was warm. Fortunately the youngest was ready for a sleep, so she went in the trailer (in her waterproofs, don't expect your trailer to ever be completely dry), and the oldest had the luxury of trying out her new waterproofs. Whilst the grown-ups got steadily wetter and colder in the horizontal rain, the girls



stayed dry. This was just as well as we had to ride having only just arrived, a day in the ferry port not really being an option. The 4½ year old stoker coped brilliantly and after two hours of rain it finally started to clear. We found a bakery for a well earned snack, and then tried to find somewhere for lunch. Fortunately things were going our way – we stopped near a closed children’s farm and were getting ready to hop in the bothy bag to warm-up and dry off when the manager spotted us covering by our bikes and within 5 minutes we were in one of the class-rooms being brought hot chocolate – a fine start to the holiday.

Our 10 day trip north of Amsterdam continued with a day on day off approach as we had decided that enforced riding might cause mutiny from the girls. We averaged 20-25km on the days when we cycled, which could take up to 4 hours including multiple stops and 10-15km on the ‘rest days’! On most of our riding days it rained but this proved to be a good use of wet days saving the sunshine for sightseeing.



We had a memorable day out in Alkmaar visiting the cheese market, and taking the incredibly low bridge canal boat tour, highly recommended.

We saw the usual windmills on our trip over to Hoorn, where we took advantage of the excellent train service to the outdoor Heritage museum at Enkhuisen, well worth a trip. Our journey south let us explore Edam, Monnickendam and provided a very windy excursion to Marken.

We popped into the Tourist trap of Zaanse Schans, which was busy but the refurbished windmills are really very impressive, especially the wood-mill.



Working our way back to Ijmuiden we avoided Amsterdam, as we were not sure we could cope with our travelling circus get up among so many bikes in a small space. Also, we felt that the girls might not appreciate the architecture, given their focus on the playgrounds we passed.

We timed our return to coincide with the first day of Sail 2010 with the associated collection of boats and nautical related fun, the highlight being the dredging crane water bucket ballet.



The Netherlands must be one of the easiest places to go cycle touring with a family, the routes are well marked and very easy to follow, its flat and safe although it is not easy to find out this information until you actually get there, maybe because to the locals it is just normal.....

Useful Information:

[www.vekabo.nl](http://www.vekabo.nl) - Small farm based campsites

<http://stanfords.co.uk> - Maps

**ANDY AND JO EVANS (AND CALLY AND RUTH)**

## NORFOLK July 2011

Just two tandems set off from Trowse just outside Norwich on a fine Sunday morning (10<sup>th</sup> July) heading south. After crossing the busy Ipswich Road we picked up a solo on the way to Tasburgh and continued past the Forncett Steam Museum on the way to Aslacton. As we were heading for the Norfolk Gliding Club at Tibenham airfield, the navigational trick is to avoid heading to Tibenham village at just the right moment. This completed, we arrived at the airfield for a light lunch in time to see the start of a day's task in a National Gliding Competition.



Starting back the same way, we soon paused with the map to agree a route back using mainly different roads whilst still ending up at the same place. This led to us leaving the solo at Flourdon and skirting Mulbarton before another crossing of the Ipswich Road and a descent to the ford at Shotesham. It looked shallow enough to cycle through for a change, but discretion being the better part of a wet bike (at least) we sensibly walked around on the footbridge.

A climb away from the river followed, then a return to Trowse where the greying skies held off long enough for us to complete the ride in the dry.

P.S. Lorraine and I then continued to visit the St Benedict's Street fair in Norwich, where it got very wet and the waterproofs we'd carried around all day came in rather handy!

Attached picture taken by our soloist (Andy Collins) shows the airfield memorial adjacent to the clubhouse at Tibenham. Note also lack of visible lycra or almost anything yellow – where were all the real cyclists?

**ROY ABIGAIL**



## 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011 - Ranworth

Three Tandems (all Dawes' of different styles and colours) set off from the centre of Norwich once the leaders had been dragged out of the coffee shop and headed out on the short trip to Ranworth. The trick with this ride is to avoid major roads, rivers and the Norfolk Broads getting in the way, and to achieve this we set off North before turning east.



We resisted the temptation to stop off at Woodforde's Brewery as we passed through Woodbastwick and soon arrived at St Helen's church in Ranworth. Some took the opportunity to climb up the church tower to enjoy the excellent views over the broads before we rolled down to the Staithe for some lunch.

Simon and Lindsey had decided to try out the pedestrian (and bike) ferry to Horning, so we all rode up to the river with them and left them awaiting the boat amongst a group of cyclists on the annual churches bike ride. (This is an 'on-request' ferry service, so don't try it without checking operating times and bringing a phone to call them! ) We continued back until Michael and Paula turned off to go home avoiding the city, whilst we made our way back to the city centre.

Photo attached at St Helen's church, Ranworth - credit Lorraine Walker.

**ROY ABIGAIL**



## NORTH EAST

24<sup>th</sup> July 2011



We had a great ride from Belsay on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July. There was a conspicuous yellow tinge to the clothing for the chilly start, as we sped along mainly downhill to morning coffee at Vallum Farm on the Roman Wall. Before we knew it, we had lots of climbing to do and as the day warmed up nicely, so did we. After the hills up to Slayley, we dropped down to Corbridge for lunch to find it absolutely full of cyclists. It was a total take-over, with hardly a car at all in the village centre. It seemed that lots of people were stopping off for lunch during the last (or first) day of their coast to coast ride. After lots of admiring of bikes and general lounging in the sunshine, the original six tandem club riders and the extra four who'd met us for lunch rode back to Belsay, via Matfen. We had fabulous views of the Tyne valley to our right, the Cheviot over to our left and the sea distant ahead.

The photo was taken as we re-crossed the military road, after the long pull out of Corbridge in lovely sunshine. Fantastic.  
45 miles hilly miles, entire ride enjoyed by all.

**PAUL AND PAULINE FOX**

August 21<sup>st</sup> 2011



Falling asleep to the sound of steady rainfall didn't inspire confidence in the weather we were hoping would accompany our ride the following day. However a clear blue sky dispelled any concerns and three tandems and two solos left Morpeth for a 43 mile ride taking in (it seemed) most of the hilly bits of Northumberland. We were warmly welcomed by Phil, Annie, Richard and Hattie to their home in Kirkwhelpington for tea and scones; Phil and Richard joining us to ride to Capheaton for lunch and on to Belsay, from where they returned home. We rode back to Morpeth for more tea and cakes generously provided by Paul and Pauline.

Welcome to new members Dave and Pat, who, having expressed concern that they might not keep up, promptly (and predictably), disappeared over the horizon in a cloud of dust. Oh well, Dave used to be a successful racing cyclist.



**BILL WICKHAM AND LIZ DIXON**



## THAMESWEY 14<sup>th</sup> August 2011

As we cycled the 10 miles from our village to meet up for morning coffee at the house of Alan & Margaret in Tadley we pondered on how many tandems would be out today? We average six to seven usually and we knew of three regular couples who were away. It was a pleasant surprise to learn on arrival for coffee that they were expecting ten tandems and a solo! Apart from our Christmas lunch this must be close to a record for some time. We were also pleased to welcome two tandem couples who have just recently joined the club. Carolyn & Rob from Inkpen and Karon & Bob from Tadley.

The morning route followed some leafy lanes through North Hampshire and the villages of Baughurst, Brimpton Common, Headley and down the lane to cross the infamous ford! "Not too deep," said Don, who goes charging through followed by Maggie (not much choice really as she was on the back!). Don is from Wiltshire so lacks local knowledge poor lad! We wiser folk walked the footbridge! Maggie was not too chuffed at having wet feet for the rest of the day despite the glorious sunshine. The route skirted round Greenham Common, now a nature reserve, once the home of the American Airforce and their nuclear bombers. The lunch stop was an excellent choice, the local in Burghclere served good pub grub in cyclist portions at reasonable prices.



The afternoon saw us doing a circular loop through the grounds of 'Highclere Castle' home to the Carnavon Family since 1679, also the setting for the ITV costume drama 'Downton Abbey'. Needless to say the number of visitors has significantly increased since the TV series. We then continued through the lanes to North Sydmonton, passing the back garden (or should I say sizeable estate of Andrew Lord Webber) on through the lanes to head back to Tadley for home made cakes and tea. Thanks to Alan & Margaret for 34 really enjoyable miles in good company.

**GEOFF & LYN CLARK**

## WESSEX

### New Forest Weekend Sept 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2011

The Wessex group welcomed Ian & Lisa Warren, Malcolm & Grace Gammon, David & Janet Jones & Stuart & Jackie Hibberd<sup>3</sup> from the West Country group and Greg and Margaret Silcock from the West Yorkshire group to the New Forest for a weekend of rides led by John and Jane Taylor. Wind and heavy showers were forecast and although this was correct we were fortunate in just missing the worst of the rain all weekend.

On Saturday we set off with a group of eight tandems and were joined at our coffee stop by John & Sue Sutton who had to leave us at lunch. The ride took us out through Beaulieu and along the coast through Lymington to Milford on Sea where we stopped for lunch overlooking the Isle of Wight.



Milford on Sea with the Isle of Wight and the Needles in the background - it was spray that made it look misty as the sea was wild



Lyndhurst after lunch

The return leg was inland and across the forest heathland with the wind behind us. An unscheduled stop was made at The Turfcutters Arms, where we sat in the sunny garden until a heavy shower moved us indoors by the open fire. Back at our start point we had covered about 43 miles.

The Sunday ride was a group of 10 tandems, we rode down to the coast at Calshot where several members had a look at the Velodrome in the old Sunderland Hanger before we rode on round the coast to Lepe beach where we had coffee in the tea rooms. Riding inland we passed through Beaulieu Road Station and on to Lyndhurst, where we split up and had our lunches in various places such as pubs and bus shelters. It was then the ride back to the leader's house for tea and cake, a distance of about 37 miles.

Calshot Castle by Steve Beith



Calshot Castle by Steve Beith

A most enjoyable weekend was had by one and all.

**JANE TAYLOR**



# WEST COUNTRY

10<sup>th</sup> July 2011



Everyone met in Morrison's/Matalan car park in Weston-super-Mare for a ride led by David and Janet. The ride soon moved off road, on to part of the Strawberry Line, a disused railway line that is now part of a National cycle route. Morning coffee was at Clevedon Station and then the riders continued to Portishead for lunch and eventually back to the car park.

**LINDA & DAVID BAILEY**

## Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2011

Leaving Edington on a disappointingly dull morning, we headed east across the top of Salisbury Plain. Into the Pewsey Vale, with the advantage of a south westerly on our tail, we made good time to our first coffee stop at Woodborough Garden Centre. We were a small, but cheerful group – four tandems and a solo.



After Upavon we took the roller-coaster route along the side of the Avon, to Netheravon and finally through to Bulford. Wriggling through Amesbury, we gloated at the traffic jams on the A303 as we crossed the bridge, then back down into the peaceful and picturesque Woodfords. With 34 miles on the clock, it was time to take a break for lunch. Heale House and Garden Centre has a well-kept and hidden secret - a great café at the end of the long drive, where Annie made us very welcome with delicious plates of homemade food. Go there if you can!

On to the next river... at Middle Woodford, it was up Church Bottom, over Stoford Bottom and across to Great Wishford, here to catch a small part of the Wiltshire Cycle Way, along the Wylie Valley. Again a beautiful, undulating ride, punctuated by strips of blue sky and sunshine. At Boynton, we left the Wylie Valley to head across the plains, this time for Codford St Mary and over to Tilshead, by now, assisted by a westerly wind. This left only a short blast from Tilshead up the A360 to Lavington and home to Edington, for tea and double chocolate brownies.

In all, about 66 miles and a climb of 947 metres. Who says it's not hilly in Wiltshire?

*Photo by Neil Wheadon*

**JOHN BIDDLECOMBE**



*Please send all items for inclusion in this section to the Editor by the deadline date, which is the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month prior to production. Contact details and publication dates can be found in the front pages of the Journal. If adverts are not typed or emailed, please write clearly. Copy will be edited to ensure that first line of advert will be highlighted and advertisers name, telephone number and location included.*

**RATES:**

For Sale:	Under £100 is FREE. Otherwise 10p per word (members) 20p per word (non-members). Photos £1.50 each
Wanted:	FREE
Accommodation:	30p per word

Please make all cheques payable to 'The Tandem Club'.

## FOR SALE

**DAWES DISCOVERY TWIN TANDEM 23/21"** Purple. 21 gears - recently upgraded. Little used since recent service. Straight handlebars, cateye computer, stand, stoker suspension post. £400 ono.  
Tel: 01202 888663 Martin King (Dorset BH21)

**NIELO TANDEM CARRIER** for attaching to car roof bars. £50.  
Tel 01202 888663 Martin King (Dorset BH21)

**MERCIAN TOURING TANDEM approx. 24" x 20"**. Early nineties. One owner. Lime Green. Updated and refurbished 2003. Little used since. Exceptional condition but now priced to sell. £475. Tel 01692 630314 Tony (Norfolk)

### LANDESCAPE TANDEM (REDUCED)



All alu frame 44cm captain, 37cm stoker, centre top. Shimano 27spd, Avid disc brakes, straight bars, mudguards, rack. Only 1100, mostly dry, miles. It's well specced, well cared for, in excellent condition: our reduced asking price is £1000 o.n.o. Now also includes car roof rack.  
Tel: 01629 734800 Grant and Liz, Derbyshire.  
e-mail: [liz.uplands@uwclub.net](mailto:liz.uplands@uwclub.net)

### 1996 THORN DISCOVERY TANDEM size 7 (23/20)



plus a roof bar tandem carrier  
£750.00.  
Full specification available.  
Reason for sale, heart condition.  
Tel: 01202 886971 Tony Silver  
(Wimborne, Dorset)  
email: [jandts@talktalk.net](mailto:jandts@talktalk.net)



**Club-led day rides and other activities. Contact your Regional Officer or the Event Organiser for more information. All welcome to come along and join in.**

*If you participate in any ride organised by or in the name of the Tandem Club, you do so entirely at your own risk. The Club, its officers and the ride organisers accept no responsibility for any loss, damage to property, accident, injury or death that may occur, however caused, whether by negligence, deliberate act or otherwise.*

### GENERAL

*Please let the organisers know when you plan to join a run so that they know who to wait for, etc. If you like to ride with others and are interested in organising a run in your area and would like to know what it takes or how it's done – please feel free to contact your Regional Officer.*

Details of all Regions' contact details and any corresponding websites can be viewed at [http://www.tandem-club.org.uk/\\_regionalgroups.htm](http://www.tandem-club.org.uk/_regionalgroups.htm)

### BIRMINGHAM

Monthly rides most of the year of around 30 - 40 miles and always include a stop for lunch at a well-chosen venue with sometimes a morning coffee/tea stop as well. If we start from someone's house, we start and end with a bit of a chat and get-together. If you would like to join us on a ride, then please ring Rob or Elizabeth on 01527 878255

### EAST CHESHIRE

New group has started with emphasis on family rides.  
Contact Simon Preston Tel: 01625 576319 or 07799496080  
email: [simonpreston@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:simonpreston@tiscali.co.uk)

**EAST LONDON, SOUTH & WEST ESSEX** - Regular monthly rides covering all of Essex to the west and south of Chelmsford. For further details contact Nic Ketley, Tel: 020 8518 8190 email: [nketley@doctors.org.uk](mailto:nketley@doctors.org.uk)  
or visit: <http://www.tandemsinessex.btinternet.co.uk/>

**HERTS** - Join us for a ride on the third Saturday/Sunday of the month. 30-40 miles. Family orientated. Pace to suit. An evening social drink at a local pub on the first Thursday of the month. Kim and Julian Kirby. Tel: (Mobile) 07944 654213 or email: [jr.kirby@ntlworld.com](mailto:jr.kirby@ntlworld.com) or [kim.kirby@ntlworld.com](mailto:kim.kirby@ntlworld.com)

### LANCASTER & BLACKPOOL

As many of our members are now reaching retirement age (or more!), they are less keen to do the distances they previously did. Some are spending more time on holiday, and this has meant we have seen falling numbers on the rides. With this in mind, we would welcome new members. Typically, our monthly rides are of around 40-50 miles with regular stops along the way.

If you live in the LA or FY postal area and would like to join us, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact me, Paul Rodman on 01539 730792.



**NETHERLANDS** - Contact <http://www.tandemclub.nl/activiteiten.html> for Dutch ride information. The site is entirely in Dutch but emails in English are answered in English. Marten Hoffmann webmaster of <http://www.tandemclub.nl> +31 343 457392 [info@tandemclub.nl](mailto:info@tandemclub.nl)

**NORFOLK (NR)** - Regular monthly rides, normally second weekend of the month. Contact Roy Abigail for details, 01603 612104, [abigail@btinternet.com](mailto:abigail@btinternet.com).

**NORTH WALES** - Regular monthly rides all year. Contact Gerald or Sue Davison for latest information on 01352 752068 or see [www.tandemnw.org](http://www.tandemnw.org)

**NORTH WEST (Liverpool & Preston)** - a new discussion board for collaboration of the North West members. You can check it out here: <http://tcnorthwest.freeforums.org>

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE** - Regular monthly rides, usually second Saturday. Length can vary with season. For more details contact Pippa and John by email at: [highwheelers@gmail.com](mailto:highwheelers@gmail.com) or Helen and Graham on 0115 841 8811.

**PETERBOROUGH (PS to PE)** rides on the fourth Saturday of the month. For enquiries please contact John or Elaine on 01733 20 24 70 or by email: [joel.black@ntlworld.com](mailto:joel.black@ntlworld.com)

**SHROPSHIRE** - Monthly social rides throughout the county ideal for Tandems. Tel: The Tandem Shop 01952 883249.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON** - For details of our programme of rides and activities, see our website: <http://www.tandemclub-southeastlondon.org.uk> or contact Tricia on 020 8325 8445.

**SOUTH SCOTLAND** - Regular monthly rides. Usually first weekend of the month. Details from Michael & Linda Hamilton, 4 Wilfrid Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 7DH for a runs list and more info. Tel: 0131 661 2516 or email [Michael.hamilton@virgin.net](mailto:Michael.hamilton@virgin.net) or [Linda.hamilton3@virgin.net](mailto:Linda.hamilton3@virgin.net) .

**SUFFOLK** - Rides are first Sunday in each month. For details: Ken and Margaret on 01394 388344 or see our website <http://www.tandemclubsuffolk.co.uk>

**THAMESWEY** - Monthly rides around Berkshire, Hampshire or South Oxfordshire. For details contact Paul or Barbara on 0118 941 2994 or email: [thamesweytandem@googlemail.com](mailto:thamesweytandem@googlemail.com)

**THREE COUNTIES** - Regular monthly rides in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. For details contact Roger and Jenny on 01531 637312 or email: [roger@themcnaes.plus.com](mailto:roger@themcnaes.plus.com) or see our web-site for details <http://www.3countiestandemclub.org.uk/>

**WAKEFIELD** - Regular Sunday rides throughout the year. Contact Tony and Margaret for details on 01977 700687.

**WESSEX** - Monthly rides all year. Contact Sheila Ward on 01590 671205, or email [sheilaward@talktalk.net](mailto:sheilaward@talktalk.net) for details.

**WEST COUNTRY** - Regular monthly rides throughout the year. Contact Jackie and Stuart Hibberd. Tel: 01179 695159 or email [stuart.jackie@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:stuart.jackie@tiscali.co.uk). Also regular monthly socials. Contact Jean and Denis on 01454 775786 or email: [denisbradbeer@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:denisbradbeer@blueyonder.co.uk)

**WEST YORKSHIRE** - Rides all year, mostly in the north-west of the region. Go to group web-site from [www.tandem-club.org.uk](http://www.tandem-club.org.uk) or contact Steve & Anna on 01535 658925.

**Notations used for speed/distance: E = Easy, Av = Average, H = Hard**

<b>Saturday 15 October 2011</b>	
<i>Derbyshire</i>	Start Tutbury 10:00. 50m, Av. Geoff Sheret, Tel: 01283 520716.
<b>Sunday 16 October 2011</b>	
<i>Kent</i>	Start Staplehurst 9:45. 40-45m, E. Colin and Monica Stanley, Tel: 01732 844292, email: <a href="mailto:stanleycol@aol.com">stanleycol@aol.com</a> .
<i>North East</i>	Start Woolsingham or Bishop Auckland 09:30. Av. Cafe lunch. Wear Valley ride Phone leader for more details. Andrew Charles, Tel: 01388 605925, email: <a href="mailto:ndrw.charles@gmail.com">ndrw.charles@gmail.com</a> .
<i>West Yorkshire</i>	Start Otley Buttercross 09:30. 65m, Av. Knaresborough via Thorp Arch & Boroughbridge. John & Janet, Tel: 01943 462045.
<b>Monday 17 October– Friday 21 October 2011</b>	
<i>East Solent &amp; IOW</i>	Start Portsmouth. Av. Winter Wine Down in Normandy Tandem and solo touring. Contact leader for details. Barry & Gill, 01243 373651.
<b>Sunday 23 October 2011</b>	
<i>South East London</i>	Start Dartford area, Kent 09:15. 35m, Av. Murray & Angela, Tel: 01322 294984, email: <a href="mailto:mandaspencer44@gmail.com">mandaspencer44@gmail.com</a> .
<b>Thursday 27 October 2011</b>	
<i>West Country</i>	20:00. Codrington Arms, North Rd. Yate. BS37 7GG. For last Thursday in month social. Please give Jean and Denis as much notice as possible of your intention to attend so that they can inform the pub of numbers. Denis and Jean, Tel: 01454 775786, email: <a href="mailto:denisbradbeer@blueyonder.co.uk">denisbradbeer@blueyonder.co.uk</a> .
<b>Sunday 30 October 2011</b>	
<i>Derbyshire</i>	Start Crich, Derbyshire. 10:00. 45m, H. Neil Vaughan, Tel: 01773 853188.
<i>Leicester Charnwood</i>	Start 39 Chaucer St, Narborough 9:30. 35-40m, Av. Roy & Maggi Dayman, Tel: 0116 2862005, email: <a href="mailto:frodar@talktalk.net">frodar@talktalk.net</a> .
<i>Milton Keynes</i>	Start Leaders' House, Aspley Guise 10:00. Av. A short ride followed by planning of rides for 2012. Kevin & Miriam Woodland, Tel: 01908-282485.







<i>Wessex</i>	Start TBA 10:00. 40m, Av. Will possibly start at Winchester Hotel, Worthy Lane, Winchester but ring to check. Coffee stop, bring picnic lunch. ** Note date change **. Peter and Ann Hawker, Tel: 01962 881900.
<i>West Yorkshire</i>	Start Old Bridge, Ilkley 09:30. 55m, H. Airton via Arncliffe. Steve & Anna, Tel: 01535 658925.
<b>Sunday 13 November 2011</b>	
<i>LA</i>	Start Devils bridge Kirkby Lonsdale. 40m. Coffee at Dent. Lunch. Foxes Pulpit Bring Packed Lunch. Mike & Helen Walden, Tel: 01524 409173.
<i>Milton Keynes</i>	Start Leaders' House, Ringstead 10:00. Av. Phil and Janice Morris, Tel: 01933-460373.
<i>North East</i>	Start Morpeth Leisure Centre 09:30. 40m, Av. Ride to the coast (Amble/Walkworth) Cafe lunch. Margaret and Doug Cockburn, Tel: 01670 512373, email: <a href="mailto:cockburn322@btinternet.com">cockburn322@btinternet.com</a> .
<i>Three Counties</i>	Start Southam 10:00. 30-35m. John and Jen, Tel: 01242 510751.
<b>Saturday 19 November 2011</b>	
<i>Derbyshire</i>	Start Mansfield Woodhouse 10:00. 50m, Av. John Trewick, Tel: 01623 470728.
<b>Sunday 20 November 2011</b>	
<i>East Solent &amp; IOW</i>	Start Rowlands Castle 12:00. nil. Meet at our ROs home for a planning meeting for 2012 events Bring 'n' share finger food lunch. Ian & Jill, Tel: 023 9241 2941.
<i>West Country</i>	Start Woodman's Inn, Fernham 10:00. 30m. Start with coffee then circular ride returning to the Woodman's Inn for lunch. Further afternoon loop. (Join ride with Thameswey). Don and Maggie, Tel: 01793 764878, email: <a href="mailto:don.webster@ppaenergy.co.uk">don.webster@ppaenergy.co.uk</a> .
<b>Thursday 24 November 2011</b>	
<i>West Country</i>	20:00. The Red Bull Inn, Bristol Rd. Malmesbury. SN16 0RA. For last Thursday in month social. Please give Jean and Denis as much notice as possible of your intention to attend so that they can inform the pub of numbers. Denis and Jean, Tel: 01454 775786, email: <a href="mailto:denisbradbeer@blueyonder.co.uk">denisbradbeer@blueyonder.co.uk</a> .
<b>Sunday 27 November 2011</b>	
<i>Leicester Charnwood</i>	Start 4 Farndale Drive, Loughborough LE11 2RQ 9:30. 35-40m, Av. Simon and Kate's winter wobble. Simon & Kate, Tel: 07809 865540, email: <a href="mailto:onetwomonkeys@yahoo.co.uk">onetwomonkeys@yahoo.co.uk</a> .
<i>South East London</i>	Start TBA 09:45. 25m. Possibly riding in Richmond Park and some of the Thames Path. Adrian & Caroline, Tel: 020 8660 1753, email: <a href="mailto:adrian.fisher@zen.co.uk">adrian.fisher@zen.co.uk</a> .

<b>Sunday 04 December 2011</b>	
<i>East Solent &amp; IOW</i>	Start Petersfield 10:30. short, E. Meet at the leaders home for tea coffee & mince pies. A short ride afterwards weather permitting. Brian & Chris, Tel: 01730 261 817.
<i>South East London</i>	Start near Otford, Kent 09:45. 15m, Av. 3-Region South East England Christmas lunch & short pre-lunch ride with coffee stop. The lunch must be pre-booked by 14 November. Angela & Murray (for ride), Tel: 01322 294984 / 07889031310, email: <a href="mailto:mandaspencer44@gmail.com">mandaspencer44@gmail.com</a> .
<i>Wessex</i>	Start Laurel Cottage, 148 Mudeford, Christchurch 10:00. 20m, E. Mince pies followed by a morning ride. Sue and John Sutton, Tel: 01425 273840, email: <a href="mailto:suesutton1@live.com">suesutton1@live.com</a> .
<i>West Yorkshire</i>	Christmas meal - details to be announced. Julia & Neil, Tel: 0113 2502654.

<b>Sunday 11 December 2011</b>	
<i>LA</i>	Christmas Do details later. John & Jean Grant, Tel: 01995 602907.
<i>Leicester Charnwood</i>	Start Main Street, Gilmorton 11:00. 25m, Av. Christmas dinner ride. Kevin & Frances Riley, Tel: 0116 2717684, email: <a href="mailto:kcrileyoadby@aol.com">kcrileyoadby@aol.com</a> .
<i>Milton Keynes</i>	Start Leaders' house, Newport Pagnell 10:00. Av. Ride followed by Christmas party. Alan and Linda Piggott, Tel: 01908-613187.
<i>North East</i>	Start Morpeth Leisure Centre 10:30. E. Short ride then meet to arrange rides for 2012. Late lunch at Cockburn's. Margaret and Doug Cockburn, 01670 512373, email: <a href="mailto:cockburn322@btinternet.com">cockburn322@btinternet.com</a> .
<i>Three Counties</i>	Start Cheltenham 10:00. 20m. A short ride before our Christmas lunch. Please ring hosts to discuss contribution. John and Sophie, Tel: 01242 512881.

<b>Sunday 08 January 2012</b>	
<i>LA</i>	Start 1, Cumberland Drive, Kendal, LA9 7JS. 12:00. Runs Meeting. Paul & Jeannette Rodman, Tel: 01539 730792.

<b>Tandem Club Regalia items</b> are obtained from: Ian Lambert, 1 Bitterley Close, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 1XP Telephone: 01584 873196		
	Socks: Top quality sock with tandem design. Sizes S, M, L	£5.00 pair
	Cap: Blue cap with Tandem Club written on each side.	£6.00
	Key Ring: Matches the Badge Holder.	£1.50
	Spoke Nipple Key: 13g workshop nipple key.	£0.50
<p><b>Prices include 2nd class postage in the UK.</b> See also: <a href="http://www.tandem-club.org.uk/_clubshop.htm">http://www.tandem-club.org.uk/_clubshop.htm</a></p>		



