

Capital Region

Christmas was the time when we would put on our thermals and go out on our expedition that became known as the Capital Lights Run. Wingers from far and even further away would join us for a ride around the West End of London to see the latest themes and light shows. Unfortunately, London traffic has become so ridiculous what with closed roads and re-engineered routes that it is now impossible to have a decent runout that doesn't take hours and hours. So, like last year, there will be a Taylor Bus Tour taking in the Central London sights as well as a sort of treasure hunt to find the free drinks and gifts on offer in the shops. The date is likely to be the Saturday before Christmas, meeting at the Swiss clock near the M&M's World shop in Leicester Square. Bring a flash light and don't forget your bus pass but please check final details with Yetti first. You don't know where you might end up!

As background information, for Queen fans out there, Roger Taylor and Brian May switched on the Bohemian Rhapsody-themed Christmas lights in Carnaby Street in OCTOBER! Hope the lights haven't burnt out before you see them or is that just fantasy? Other lights include Covent Garden, Harrods with its 13 "Fantastica" themed windows, Regent Street with its awe-inspiring *'The Spirit of Christmas'* lights, turned on by Doctor Who and whose suspended spirits are inspired by the Street's very first Christmas lights, which were the first ever Central London Christmas lights in 1954, and finally, Oxford Street. A new set of lights had reportedly been due to celebrate the arrival of Crossrail this Christmas but the delay of the service until 2019 means that we will be seeing the same display as last year.



Oxford Street Sparkle



The end of the year is always a time for reflection on what has happened over the last 12 months. We've had lots of landmark birthdays, travelled thousands of miles and Barry is now a regular Capital member having been a friend of ours on his Virago many years ago. Sadly, we said farewell to Anne and we wish Mark all the best.

I've been remembering the fun times and the silly chatter that throws up a few unintentional jokes. Snow White and the seven Dwarfs rode to Slovenia and the names for Adrian (Grumpy) and Barry (Happy) have stuck. So one day there was a conversation: "Morning Adrian, why are you so grumpy?". "What? Me Grumpy?". "No, I'm feeling Happy". Boom, Boom!

We were talking about our fancy dress for the British Treffen. Taz said he was going as an undertaker (what a surprise) and conscious of the carrying capacity on the motorcycle, I asked him whether one could get blow-up coffins. We had been talking about blow-up cacti at the time. He replied: "Yes, of course you can, if you put enough dynamite inside them". Boom, Boom! Clint Eastwood would have been proud.

We continue to hold Mole Night raffles and raise money for charity. Richard and Carol have been missing for a few of them because they enjoy the sun too much in Spain and while they are generous with their winnings, occasionally Richard arrives too late to spend his pennies and pounds.



We've had a few poorly Moles of late - Peter R, Gordon, Len, Margaret and Carol - but the good news is that they are all on the mend. We look forward to seeing them joining us and running and motorcycling around next year.

And with that, all that remains is for us at Capital to wish you all and your families a very Happy Christmas and a healthy 2019. Roll on our joint Wing Ding with Kent and Essex which is due in June 2020!

Richard's Ruffled Out

Finally, with a picture of Gordon helping to do the cooking at Big John's surprise birthday party in July, a very Happy New Year to you all.



Miss (Helen) Whiplash

Devon & Cornwall Region

Yet again we headed down the dreaded A38 for about the fourth time in a month – funny how it goes like that sometimes! The Tuesday Rendezvous was at the Hunting Lodge near Ivybridge and they coped admirably with both a birthday party on the go and over 20 of us arriving haphazardly and ordering meals – a relief after last month's treatment. Food was ok but only a background to the general chat that is the main reason for going.

Mike, Roger & Jenny were all looking forward to attending the Ride to the Wall the following weekend. Pete S also went and sent the photos and the following information "I went to the RTTW again this year (solo as Jennie had other commitments) and offered the vacant seat to the organisers. I was asked by the founder (Martin Dickinson) to contact a