

Wow! What a difference a month makes. At the beginning of March we were looking forward to the Hunstanton Light Parade, trips to Daytona Bike Week and Normandy, an end-of-season ski holiday to Canada, a belated birthday cruise to Alaska, regular run outs to the High Beach tea hut, Mole Nights and, of course, Wing Dings and Treffens galore. The terrible coronavirus crisis has curtailed or put an entire stop to all of this.

We are living in unprecedented times. The spread of Covid-19 has affected so many of us across the world in so many ways and we hope that you and your loved ones are well and safe.

It's incredible to think that London's ExCel Centre, the venue for February's MCN Motorcycle Show, has been converted from an exhibition hall into Britain's largest and newest hospital - NHS Nightingale, an emergency field hospital with 80 wards, capable of holding 4,000 patients. An amazing feat of engineering, built in only 11 days.

London in lockdown is like everywhere else in the UK, deserted. Johnny had to make an essential medical journey across the city and avoiding public transport, got Tango out and blew away its cobwebs. With ULEZ and the congestion charge lifted for a while, the journey took him back to days of old when London wasn't so crowded, roads were not blocked or re-routed, and when we could plan a Christmas Lights Run and actually complete it. These five photos show some of the landmarks that we enjoyed riding past then.



Tower of London



Royal Exchange, Queen Victoria Street



St Paul's Cathedral



Piccadilly Circus



Harrods, Knightsbridge

We are all truly grateful to those people who are working in healthcare and the wide range of other essential services that are keeping us, our families and our communities safe during this crisis.

The roll call of essential workers who are Capital members is as follows:

Mike the Hat - lorry delivery driver

Rob (Buzz) - mechanical electrical engineer in the food processing industry, breakdowns only!

David and Lorraine - Lorraine in care homes and David distributing food to care homes and hospitals

Peter Fisher - lorry delivery driver

Martin Spitty - HGV, non-stop food deliveries

Kerry - Asda Pharmacy and delivering prescriptions (congratulations on the new job too!)

Charles and Natalie - paramedics, visiting nursing homes

Joe - general assistant at the Hawthorns Residential Home

Bob (yellow) - key worker at MOD

Paul Hyett - volunteer blood runner

Liz Munchkin - cardiac physiologist



Gordon Rowe - key worker at BT, and finally,
Carl - fire compartment compliance surveys.

We salute you all and stay safe yourselves.

During this time when we cannot meet up to socialise, Yetti has reprised his role as Head Prefect and has been checking up weekly on all the Mole pupils to ask if they are staying safe and well. The last register, as of writing this Report, had 58 Moles still alive and kicking, busy digging up their various gardens and pot plants. Rick discovered that he has had the virus but thankfully he is at home on the mend. We all wish him full health very soon.

Yetti has also resurrected a Facebook website that he built a few years ago to launch the Facebook Virtual Capital Drop Out. Currently there are 107 followers.

The Drop Out included Virtual Runs Out, a Virtual Gin and Real Ale Bar (thanks to Helen Perkins and David Webster), a Site Manager who, allegedly, didn't do a good job, hence Non-Site Manager (Mike the Hat), a Friday Night Disco by Mr Ranga (aka Top Banana) which was a great success and the Not Wet T-Shirt and Y-Front Competition which was errr.... judge yourself from the picture! There was also a Fancy Dress Night, a Lucky Inscription Number Winner, Light Parade and Not Best Bike competition.

It was such a great non-event that is not over 'till the skinny bloke sings. We could be here for ever!

Below are the Saturday No Prize Giving Awards. All information was taken from the 30 badly filled-out virtual non-inscription forms that were assumed to have been honestly filled out by the various non-members:

Best Virtual Bike - Captain
Runner Up - Steve Faulkner



Best Fancy Dress - Mike the Hat Ball
Fancy Dress Runner-up - Martyn

Furthest Not Travelled - Jeff & Sue (50 miles)

Not Oldest Person - Cupcake (Extremely Old)

Not Youngest Person - Freddy (Younger Than Most)

Best Not Turned Up Region - 20 Regions inscribed. The winner with five bikes was Capital Wings (who else!)

Best Not Turned Up Country - 18 countries inscribed including two from Never Never Land. The winner was a tie with six bikes from the UK and six bikes from No Country.

Oh, and as an extra, all the lucky people who won have a special prize of free entry to next year's Virtual Drop Out which we hope doesn't happen.

Last, but not least, the Lucky Inscription Number (drumroll)..... goes to Inscription Number 23 - Steve and Jane from Canada on their Harley.

They won a fantastic prize of a lifetime - free travel anywhere in the world tomorrow and a picture of a Goldwing!!!



Did you know about the Facebook Group Page. Just search for GWOCGB. Its free to join and open to full members and non members



Here's a photo montage of some of the participants.

Capital Wings (London)
VIRTUAL DROPOUT

NO CAMPING FACILITIES
VIRTUAL FOOD
EMPTY GIN AND WHISKEY BAR

Only crazy people can attend

CONTACT DATA
JUST SEND A MESSAGE ON Facebook

PLACE TO BE
AT YOUR OWN HOME

WHEN ?
WHEN EVER YOU FEEL LIKE IT

No Lichtparade No Parade of Nations No Runs

Flyer by Belgium Freddy



DJ Mr Ranga



*Fancy dress runner up
Martyn*



*Oldest Old Person
Cupcake*



T-Shirt by Big Les



Best Bike Mark



Best Fancy Dress Mike the Hat



Wet T-Shirt and Y-Front



Youngest young person Freddy



We were not there Chris and Annie

The plan was to have a Virtual Easter Treasure Hunt so hopefully I can report on that next month. In the meantime, here's a reminder of a previous Easter get-together when a certain Capital bunny ran riot around the campsite.



Bunny Man



Hope you all enjoyed your Easter eggs, real or virtual.

Capital's WhatsApp group continues to be a valuable way of friends keeping in touch - lots of banter, shared videos and jokes. Here's a clean one from Taz that will make you smile: "Saw a guy at the supermarket last week with a trolley full of paella. I thought Hispanic buying".

Be good and stay safe and well.

Miss (Helen) Whiplash

Devon & Cornwall Region

An old 1980s haunt was the venue for the Tuesday Rendezvous – some of the attendees could even remember when The George was just a pub and D&C held their monthly meetings in the room upstairs, now it's a Toby Inn which services the Travelodge next door. A dozen or so members made it to Roborough in Plymouth and for once there wasn't even one bike on that cold and miserable evening but we all had a good chat and made the most of the carvery, especially those who had found a 'Groupon' so needed to eat two courses each to claim the money off! Unfortunately several were less than impressed so that's another one probably struck off our list.

The breakfast meet is normally on a Monday but as the chosen venue is closed on Mondays we had it on a Tuesday instead, but then we found out that due to a change of hands it's now open every day anyway ha! Nine people and three bikes turned up for a natter, as the weather was miserable two of the bikes set off for home immediately after eating while three cars and the remaining bike decamped to GT Motorcycles in Plymouth to have a mooch around the bikes and yet another cup of coffee. We should have set it for the Wednesday as that turned out to be the driest day we'd had here for weeks.