

Capital Region

August turned out to be a busy month for socialising but still at a distance of course.

Ted and Madeline's invitation to visit them in Stevenage and raise money for Macmillan nurses was a huge success. The event was advertised firstly as a Mole Top Box Sale in aid of Macmillan nurses with Ted having a clear out of his bike gear and bits and pieces including a bike lift. He found a few skeletons too, I hear. Margaret had also offered one of her delicious cakes to be raffled off and Raymondo and Rose, a hamper of their scrummy homemade chutneys and jams. The event morphed into a bigger Top Box Sale with Capital members bringing their 'For Sale' goods and other items for the raffle.

Our hosts' hospitality was terrific with a grand selection of sandwiches and cakes, all washed down with copious cups of tea and coffee whilst sitting out in the garden chatting and rummaging on the tables for goodies to buy.



Happy Hosts



Garden Party



Happy Mole



Top Box Sale

It was a lazy and mostly sunny afternoon as we considered our purchases and tried on various items of clothing and helmets. Chloe and Dani circulated with the Colin the Caterpillar Macmillan quiz and they also sold raffle tickets and badgered us for donations. It was good to see Spike and Debbie who found a quiet spot in the garden for a moment of contemplation over a cuppa. We all send our best wishes to her. Ted, meanwhile, who is a collector of collectibles, brought out some interesting items including a pre-pop up type book showing the workings of a car.



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Ted's Lift goes This High



Suits You Sir



Spike and Debbie



Ted shows Steve His Collectibles



Raffle Time

Eventually, it was time for the legendary Capital Raffle. My how we have missed that over the months and sadly Taz couldn't make it because he and Trudy were in quarantine.

The tension built because Yetti decided to announce the winner of the Colin the

Caterpillar quiz or conundrum. Stuart obviously makes lots of cakes because he was the nearest to guessing the number of sprinkles on Colin, (I have to be careful here because the word checker keeps changing Colin

to Colon!). Anyway, Stuart won a jar of marmalade so maybe that has gone into a cake for Wendy. Back to the raffle and first out of Yetti's hat was Rose, winning the sponge cake donated by Margaret. Then I won second prize with the hamper donated by R&R. Dani and Ted each won a fluffy Toucan bag of mini Easter eggs, donated by me and definitely not out of date. Al and Chloe should have won a prize for furthest distance travelled - over 100 miles one way. Well done to them for making the effort. I think Chloe was rewarded with a McDonald's on the way home though.



Stuart's Marmalade



Rose's Cake



Helen's Hamper



Ted's Easter Eggs

The final reckoning for Macmillan nurses was a magnificent £600. Not bad for just over 20 people in person and WhatsApp donations from those unable to join the event. A huge vote of thanks go to Ted, Madeline, Joe, Margaret, Ray and Rose and everyone who so generously donated towards the worthy cause.

The August Bank Holiday weekend saw a fair number of Moles and their friends meet up at The Gathering of Friends at the Obelisk Centre in Northampton. Some hardy souls camped while others brought their motor homes or hotelled nearby. After such lovely warm weather, it was a shame that the temperature suddenly turned autumnal and a cold wind arrived. “Shiver me timbers” came to mind. I think thermals had not been packed on this trip for the majority. The point of the weekend, of course, was to meet fellow Wingers, many of whom we had met last September and not during this summer. Conversation and beer flowed and on Saturday evening, Yetti and Joe got up to their old tricks by playing a joke on Nigel. Who is Nigel? Who is the Chairman? With photocopies of his beaming face stuck here, there and everywhere, everyone knew who the GWOCGB Chairman was by the end of the evening.



I Bet He Drinks Black Label

Later, some of the Capital contingent came together in the club house to chat and eat more sugary sweets, crisps and Percy Pigs. At the end of the evening, Chloe was the last man standing, the rest had gone to bed.

Congratulations to Jason in Kent Wings who celebrated his 50th birthday with cake all round.



Northampton Lights



Kent Lights

Congratulations also go to Buzz who is now an Essex Blood Runner. Give him a wave if you see him out and about.

And finally, we haven't had a caption competition in ages but there's no time like the present. Mo is recovering from a hip problem and some have suggested that after seeing this photo, he should be taking a dose of WD40. What do you think?



Only a Scratch

That's all for now folks.

Miss (Helen) Whiplash