

Capital Region

As the end of summer approaches, it's sad to reflect on a missed 2020 motorcycling season but at least some of us have brushed the cobwebs away off our machines and managed to travel a few miles. Hopefully some of us were able to say a distant "Hello" at the Meeting of Friends at the end of August and also have a socially-distanced Capital get-together at Charles' home. Whatever, we trust that you and your families have managed to escape the horror of Coronavirus and are keeping fit and healthy.

With more of us venturing out now, our Zoom meeting attendance has understandably reduced but it's still good to catch up with the news and see where adventures have taken people. Rocky, Bev and Dave have headed for Switzerland, Taz and Trudy to the Moselle and everywhere in Holland it seems, while John, Julie, Gemma, Phil, Liz, Brian and Shirley have been doing a 'Pru and Timothy', travelling the canals in Yorkshire and Lancashire. Chris and Annie took their motor home to Bristol to see a different kind of boat - the SS Great Britain. Others frequent the Epping Tea Hut for Sunday brunch and have camping trips planned. Of course, we hope to see as many friends as possible in Northampton.

Here's some holiday postcards:



Innertkirchen



Alpine Sailboat



Dutch Speedboat



English Narrowboat



Liverpool Docks



Moselle Tour



Sustenpass



Ray and Ginny on their Outfit



Taz and Heineken at Volendam



Waffling about in Switzerland

The technical details behind Yetti's outfit is that it's a stripped-down 1985 Aspencade. He has owned it probably 20 years now. The bike has had several different makeovers and this is the latest with a sidecar, Valkyrie tank, car tyre on the back and even a braked sidecar wheel. It's Yetti's winter/fun hack and as he doesn't own a car, the vehicle comes in handy for transporting large items.

Our thanks go to Postman Pat for hosting the Sunday afternoon bingo sessions. These were great fun while they lasted and a great excuse to bring Capital and friends together to swap lockdown stories but with more people now getting out and about, it was agreed that Dave should stop rolling his balls and calling out the numbers. Happy memories - with the t-shirts and other prizes to remember the Sundays by.

Now an update on Chloe's story of sending an unstamped present to Dani. Thankfully the item arrived safely but Wayne had to pay the £6.70 postage. Wayne has refused to let Al reimburse him, saying that he wants



to hold this affair against Al and Chloe for ever. I expect that we will see more sparring between these families in the future.

Have you noticed that Prime Minister Boris has been giving us Moles a bit of a battering of late? He has said that “local lockdowns and local whack-a-mole strategies” will be used to deal with coronavirus outbreaks. Apparently Boris loves the whack-a-mole line, a Minister has revealed. “It’s clear he came up with it himself. If you’re in a meeting with him, he’ll keep using it.” Whack-a-mole as we know is a children’s (and even adult’s) game involving a frantic but futile attempt to batter the furry mammal into submission and was originally coined to describe the strategy of placing Covid-19 hotspots swiftly into local lockdown. But after days of chaos and confusion, it started to characterise the UK Government.

It began with senior Ministers directly contradicting each other over the use of face masks. Then there was further turmoil over whether or not people should be returning to work. Maybe we should send them our t-shirt?

Incredibly, the phrase has popped up elsewhere. In Utah, Governor Herbert said that adapting to the ever-evolving coronavirus pandemic reminds him of a game of whack-a-mole. “We’re whacking the mole and as we solve one problem it creates another problem or it has an impact somewhere else and we have to whack that mole and that creates another issue,” said Herbert.

Even Jeremy Paxman is at it. He introduced a recent University Challenge programme by saying: “Tonight we’re playing another round of the intellectual equivalent of whack-a-mole, played with difficult questions rather than with a large mallet.”

It has been reported that alcohol consumption has increased during lockdown. I know that Corona beer has been particularly popular and it’s always beer o’clock on the Moles WhatsApp page. So for something to cool us down after the heatwave in the south of England, here’s a

glorious photo of blue skies and snow taken by Bev on her Swiss trip. The glacier came in handy to chill her beer. Roll on the skiing season!



Alpine Beer Time

Finally, one from Taz who suggests that now is the perfect time to become a ventriloquist what with all the face coverings we have to wear.

Diary date: Capital Wings 40th Anniversary BBQ, c/o Southern Moles hospitality in West Sussex, 24-25 July 2021.

Hope you are still staying safe and well.

Miss (Helen) Whiplash