

It's Bonfire Night as I write this final report of 2020. It's also the start of a second lockdown for us English people and sadly, Boris has turned any fireworks displays into damp squibs. Yeti did manage, however, to give us all a small display at our Mole Night when he produced a box of sweeties in the shape of bangers and sparklers. That was our ration of fizz.

As a Northerner, treacle toffee and Parkin cake have always been a tradition for me and my family on Bonfire Night. For many years I have brought Thornton's Treacle Toffee to the Mole Night nearest to the 5th. My offerings have managed to shut up Capital, giving Yeti the opportunity to talk and give out notices without interruption. As I remember, Joe and Stuart have been particularly partial to Thornton's and I'm not aware of any visits to the dentist as a result.

November's Mole Night fortunately fell on the 5th and I offered a solution so that we could all still enjoy some toffee together. A pretty fool proof recipe for Bonfire Toffee was circulated - not many ingredients and hopefully no need for a candy thermometer either although I hoped that one might be tucked away somewhere in a kitchen drawer. Maybe it could be a competition, with the person sucking the longest, the winner? Although Margaret announced that "she can't suck it, I always have to chew (the toffee)", it turned out that only Annie was happy to do a bit of Delia Smithing, so she won the virtual prize as both she and Chris snacked their way through the jar of toffee. Thanks for making the effort.

What feels like Capital's only big run out of the year happened in October when ten bikes with 14 people met up for brunch at the Ace Cafe in London. It was a fine sunny day and friends travelled a fair few miles to enjoy a socially distanced meal of various kinds.



Ace Brunch 1



Ace Brunch 2



Ace Line-up One



Ace Line-up Two

Great to see the Beavers, Graham and Colin and some old friends from SAP Tour days. Do you remember those with Jeremy, tackling the hairpin bends and sometimes rough, muddy tracks in Switzerland? Here's some photos that record the event.

Perhaps you have heard of the '2 to 1 Club'. It was set up at a Belgian Friendship Weekend (crikey what are those?) by Chris and Annie to celebrate the end of British Summer Time, the time when clocks fall back an hour. Yetti sent out an invitation to join in a Friendship Weekend elite Club when we could watch the clocks change and have a beer or two. The Weekend get-together had to be cancelled this year but he wanted to keep the tradition, and the Club, going. So, on the Saturday night, Sunday morning of 25th. October, 14 Zoom screens lit up as we chatted and had a bevy. Various PJ's were on display (pink, penguins, yellow batmen) and Chloe, woken from her slumber, showed us her new, pink Harry Styles Fine Line guitar. It was great to see some of our Belgian friends online as it was even later for them and Frederic won the award

for Longest Distance Waffle. Presents for him of special alcohol and crumpets will have to wait for another time. Requests were put out to hold this party at an earlier time - lunch maybe? - next year. It would certainly help Chloe who I hear was a typical grumpy teenager for the rest of Sunday, a nightmare for her parents apparently.



2 to 1 Club

Covid-19 has had some casualties, albeit not serious ones. John and Julie and Shirley and Brian are locked on the Montgomery Canal near Oswestry. Firstly, at Chirk, the gateway to Wales, was closed and then secondly, England went into lockdown. Bob and Dawn were in quarantine after being in Spain. Bob was getting a little bored with having to stay indoors and Capital's helpful advice to keep himself amused was to buy 'yellow things' on eBay. Medium AI had a scare but thankfully tested negative. Meanwhile, we wish Wayne well that he hasn't succumbed. It seems that some building sites still do not have proper, safe procedures to test and isolate their workers, it's a disgrace.

Before rounding off this year-end Report, Capital wanted to wish Georgia a very happy 21st. birthday for 21st. November. That sounds really neat and tidy, doesn't it?

Partying will not have been possible under lockdown rules but we hope she celebrated in style. I'm sure Daz and Sarah had something up their sleeves. Here's the party girl having fun at one of our Capital Worthing Weekends. Congratulations!



Birthday Girl Georgia

Chloe has just started to learn how to play her guitar and managed two chords for us at the November Mole Night. Together with a strap bought recently in Glastonbury, she was a picture in pink. Rock on Orianthi!



Widescreen debut for Chloe

December was always a time for the Capital Lights Run but this has sadly stopped due to congestion and blocked roads around London and probably the stamina of most of the participants.

I thought I would remind you of times of old and also remember the recent passing of the world's most famous James at the same time. So here's a chance to see the sparklers in Bond Street, without venturing out.



As

Christmas Lights

Chris



As Christmas and New Year approach, we at Capital wish every single one of our friends and their families a happy and safe time. It will certainly be a strange time but we can only hope that we will all get out and about to meet each other soon in 2021. You'll have to imagine that we all sang "We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" but we really did. We send our love to you all.



Capital Christmas Cheer

Miss (Helen) Whiplash and Johnny

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GOLDWING