



If you haven't attended these before I do urge you to put 16th February for an Open Meeting and 26th April 2020 for the AGM into your diaries. Many subjects were covered on the 3rd. Tim announced that two more Regions had folded – Lancs and Lakes and Shropshire which proves that if you don't use it you lose it. All the committee gave their individual reports and no doubt a full report will appear in the WingSpan in due course. It was pleasing that the membership secretary reported 90 new members for this year. Time will tell whether they stayed for more than twelve months and became active members within the Club. All the dates for Treffens and Wing Dings will be on line by January so time to make plans for 2020. Don't forget that membership forms are due for renewal in January. The 2019 Treffen in Bishops Auckland was thoroughly discussed and it was so sad that only about 25% of the membership came to our premier event of the year. Tony P. took us through the plans for the 40th Treffen this coming year in Uttoxeter. More and full details will be on line very soon – it's looking good.

No more for now – think it is about time to make a Christmas cake.
Take care and ride safely:- it's a busy world out there.
Sent from the far flung reaches of East Anglia by an aging Rebel rider.

Diane XXX

Capital Region

We're over the ghoulish outfits, cobwebs, vampire teeth, eyeballs, creepy skulls, sparklers and treacle toffee and now we're heading towards turkey and tinsel. It's almost the end of 2019 and as we approach time with family and friends, we can also reflect on the year, both personally and with the Capital family.

Illness, accidents and operations have affected some of us and as a result we may not have been seen but we have certainly been with you in spirit. If I have a personal message to send to all the chaps out there who are over 60, please get your PSA level measured.

The Capital WhatsApp is thriving and is a good way to keep in touch. Long may it continue but the more traditional ways of communication must not be forgotten though. Spikeadelia is a frequent contributor and here he is with his trusty machine.



Spike and Debbie at the Woodbine

Some Capital members have lost loved ones during the year and we send our best wishes and heart-felt thoughts to them, hoping that Christmas time will be kind to them. We will remember too Victor Nicholson, known to many of us as ‘The Old Fart’ or just Nick. He lost his fight with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in September. Nick was a very active Capital member for many years and some of the more long-standing GWOCGB members who attended our Wing Dings probably still have t-shirts that he produced the artwork for. He was one of the Club’s characters and will be missed by many. Sadly we are unable to show a photo of Nick because the ones we found are a bit naughty and therefore would have been censored,

On the upside, we have had a number of significant birthdays - 50, 60, 70, 80 and 90 for Gerald. Both Trudy and Taz have produced more grandchildren during the summer, so our congratulations go to them and their respective families for producing Owen and Nancy. Amber became a sensational Prom Queen in her long flowing dress, with complementary make-up and hair. Many of us didn't recognise the glamorous lady.



Mum admires Amber's Prom Dress



Dani's New Eyes

Chloe and Dani wrote their first WingSpan report together and now Dani is following Rocky's trend for 'new eyes'.

As we're a motorcycle club, Capital members have also invested in new bikes and renovated older ones too.



Yetti mends Johnny's Fork'



Yetti tests Johnny's 1200

At this time of the year, we also remember family, friends and colleagues who died serving their country in wars and other conflicts. Al is a Falklands War veteran and marched with pride past the Cenotaph in London as part of the South Atlantic Medal Association.



Al Peskett on Remembrance Sunday

Meanwhile, Adrian has moved house to the fresh, bracing air of Frinton-on-Sea and Andy has headed to Wales. We wish them well and hope they keep in touch.



Adrian and Sue Open-The-Box



Andy's Stealth 1200

We must say thank you to all those who sponsored a beer or cider for the Real Ale Bar at the British Treffen this year. As always, the liquid went down well and a fantastic total of £2,085 was taken over the weekend. Capital will be doing it all over again at the GWOCGB 40th Anniversary Treffen with a couple of different tipples. The good news is that we have got 13 sponsors already for next year. Does anyone fancy taking one of the remaining seven beers or ciders?

So it's a belated thank you to Kent, South Wales, Yorkshire, Broadlands, Border, Alba, Sussex, Centre and Trent. Also Nigel and Hills, Pete and Ann, Chris and Annie, Jeff and Sue, Lesley Snell, Dave Partridge, Phil and Peg, Rocky, and Pete and Wendy. With a special thanks too to Grumpy and Von for supplying all the Prosecco yet again.

A few of us ventured up to the Skegness Light Parade, now affectionately known as 'Skeg Vegas'. The September weather was not too kind but the Parade on the Saturday night was very good - loads of people lined the street and we had a great pose. Yetti and Ginny would like to thank Chris and Annie Easter for putting up with them over the weekend. Chris and Annie were a bit under the weather so they came in the car which came in very handy on the Sunday. When you see Chris and Annie, ask them about Left Right Centre !!!

Thanks go to Sandy, Peggy and all at Lincolnshire Wings for a great event. Have booked for next year already.



Our November Mole Night was an opportunity to catch up with Ray and Rose, who, like Carol and Richard, spend most of their summer in sunnier climes. Some of us were lucky enough to buy a jar of 'Mond's Pickled Onions' before they soon sold out.

I think the couple were probably going to be crying their way through the rest of November and December to satisfy future demand.

Do you remember the parties of old when the pickled onions came out after everyone was pickled themselves?

Taz gets pickled



The evening participants also gave a 'well done' to Yetti, Joe, Barry and Colin who together made up 80% of the Goldwings parked in the car park at the recent Open/Reps meeting. Capital are made of sturdy stuff. In addition, grandparents Taz and Trudy won all three of the raffle prizes and donated the monies to the Meldreth Manor School Toy Run fund. Joe, as our Charity Co-ordinator, has re-established contact with the school and it is delighted to have the GoldWings back for our Toy Run on the afternoon of Sunday 15th December. Please contact Joe and his able assistant Margaret, or Yetti, if you would like to join us or to donate money or presents if you cannot.

As Christmas approaches, Wayne, Ingrid and Dani will be leading the 'Taylor Walking and Riding Tour' of the West End on Saturday 21st December. All are welcome to join in to see the Christmas lights and more.

And so, all that's left to say now is to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year and we look forward to meeting up again en masse for the post-Christmas bash in Worthing in January.

Ho, ho, ho.

Miss (Helen) Whiplash

KEEP YOUR REGIONAL CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE

It is very important for Regions to keep the Committee (GenSec, Events Secretary, Membership Secretary) as well as the WingSpan Editor up to date with any contact changes. This is one of the duties of Region Rep.

Please bear this in mind as we are getting close to the time when Regions are organising their Annual General Meetings.