



over to Ireland. Only time will tell what we achieve but there is no harm in wishful thinking.

No more for now. Ride safely:-it's a busy world out there. Sent from the depths of East Anglia by an aging Rebel rider.

Diane XXX

Capital Region

It turned out to be a glorious December - a time to gather with friends to celebrate another year, a time to be generous with gifts, thoughts and actions for those less fortunate than ourselves and a time to remember the long life of one of our members who sadly passed away.

The first part of this month's report comes from the pen of Joe, Capital's Charity Organiser:

It was the time of year when the call was made loud and clear over the mountain tops, down through the valleys and across the cities of Great Britain. Not a call to arms but a call for HELP. Capital Wings had been charged with bringing joy and happiness to the children at Meldreth Manor children's home. Wingers, near and far across the whole country, donated funds and a total of £355.50 was raised. This left Margaret and Joe the task of buying toys and personal items for the 48 children in residence, a challenge that they managed to complete with great aplomb.

So the date for the Annual Toy Run was set for Sunday 15th December with a departure from the Silver Ball Cafe near Royston at 2pm. Those that made the trip laden with yet more presents now amounted to nine GoldWings and three cars and of course our very own Santa (Tony Gull) for the short ride to Meldreth Manor. Everyone was greeted outside by the children with their families and carers.



Santa at Meldreth Manor



Sleigh Ride on Wheels



All the toys were carried inside on trolleys as we had so many and the sight was overwhelming. Once we had placed the presents around the Christmas tree, Joe surprised the Wingers by handing out song sheets with four carols on. Totally unprepared, we all entertained the residents and carers with our singing which they enjoyed (or at least they seemed to enjoy).

Our efforts were rewarded with sandwiches, cakes and tea and again more cakes that were consumed with much enjoyment.

The whole afternoon was a complete success for the Meldreth Manor residents and also for all the Wingers who turned up to support such an important event. It's so true what they say - that it is more rewarding to give than to receive.

On a personal note, Joe would like to thank everyone who took part either by your very kind donation or by turning up on the day because without your help and generosity these special moments in our lives would not happen.

Joe subsequently received a letter of thanks from Nadine McFadden, Head of Education at Aurora Meldreth Manor:

“Dear Joe

Today Santa came and handed out your Christmas gifts to our children. It was a joy to see how the children responded to being given a present and when they unwrapped them back in class their response and reactions were astonishing.

I cannot thank you enough for the generosity of your members and particularly for the time and thought you all put into choosing and wrapping individual presents for each of the school students. Your choices were perfect matches for each child.

I will send you some photos of the children enjoying your kind gifts in the New Year but for now my sincere thanks to all your members for their

generosity, care and kindness that you have shown our children and young people.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.”

On the same weekend, we had a little pre-Christmas gathering and 16 Moles turned up for a Greek meal at a restaurant in Waltham Cross. As usual we were loud and chief organiser Stuart even supplied crackers for the table. At the end of the meal we had a surprise visit from Santa aka Wayne. Ginny had got gifts for all and Santa handed them out. Unfortunately, there were a few Moles who could not make the evening so all the staff had a visit from Santa too, even the chefs, but the waitresses were very reluctant to sit on Santa’s knee! Thanks Stu for arranging the event. It looks like this could become another regular annual event. Ho Ho Ho!



Chefs Secret Santas

I mentioned previously that Capital had agreed to contribute to The Woodbine Inn’s two Christmas charities - Haven House and St. Clare Hospice. Here’s Yetti handing over the money on our behalf to a delighted landlord.



Capital's Donation handed to Rob

Finally, it is with a sad heart that we heard of the death on 11th December of Gerald Jordan, affectionately known as “Rusty Nut” or as some would say “Rusty Nuts” but I can’t possibly confirm that fact. Our condolences go out to daughter Carol, Richard, grandson David, Lorraine, Amber and all the family.

Gerald joined Capital ten years ago at the ripe old age of 80 and everyone enjoyed his company. He always had a twinkle in his eye and flirted with the ladies, even at the end with the nurses. It was an honour to have known him and to have had some great times together.

Gerald’s funeral took place in Enfield a week later with a send off of around ten bikes.



Gerald's Goldwing Cavalcade

It was one of those crisp, cold, clear mornings when too late, you hear about all the adventures Gerald had been on through his lifetime.



Gerald's Funeral

How appropriate it was that we should sing the hymn “All Things Bright and Beautiful”.



Happy Days, Happy Memories

RIP Gerald.

Miss (Helen) Whiplash