



Capital Region

In September, Capital and Broadland Wings got together to do what they do best - make a dream come true for someone less fortunate, health-wise, than ourselves. The event was an opportunity to get on our bikes for a run out that made everyone happy.

I'm grateful to organiser, Colin Will, for sending in this contribution as 'Judith earned her Wings'.

Colin was contacted by Pamela Clements, a long-time friend of Judith Baker. Judith had been diagnosed with terminal cancer to the liver, bowel and lungs in early August and was given a prognosis of approximately six months.

In her youth, Judith had been a keen motorcyclist and even rebuilt a Triton in her bedroom. This is not a shower but a Triton motorcycle, a 'hybrid' that involved fitting a Triumph engine into a Norton frame. When Judith had finished, they had to have the window removed to get it out.

Pamela asked Colin if he could help realise Judith's dream to ride on a Goldwing solo or trike and to give her a day to remember after more than 18 months of ill-health, accidents, treatments and operations.

Colin duly put a call out to the Club and true to form 12 members from Capital and Broadland Wings agreed to help. On Sunday 13th September 2020 a very special trip to make Judith's dream come true was arranged. Just before the run, Judith's husband, Sean, had also been given a terminal cancer diagnosis so naturally he was included on the ride too.

Three Goldwing trikes, accompanied by six Goldwing motorbikes and one Harley-Davidson, left the assembly point in Colchester and rode in convoy to Judith's home in Tolleshunt Knights.

Judith knew nothing of the plan and her face was a picture of surprise. Her ear-to-ear grin was a permanent feature all day.



Judy's Goldwing Convoy

Once Judith and Sean has been kitted up, they each mounted a trike and off they set. The route took the group through Tiptree via Great Tottam, Haybridge, Langford and Hatfield Peveral to their destination at Paper Mill Lock Tearooms in Little Baddow, Chelmsford. Here, the owners, Vanessa and Elliott, had reserved parking for the two trikes carrying Judith and Sean, the remainder of the convoy parked in the adjacent car park free of charge, courtesy of the owner, Louise. The Tearooms had reserved tables for the party, who enjoyed refreshments in the sunshine, amongst the kayakers, paddle-boarders and boats at this picturesque and busy riverside location.

Prior to the return trip Judith asked Colin: “Do I have to wear the helmet on the trike? I would prefer not to as I would just like to feel the wind in my hair”. Bless her.



Judy's Dream with Gilly and Sean

The return journey back to Tolleshunt Knights was via Wickham Bishops, Great Braxted and Tiptree.

The day, however, was not without a couple of dramatic events. Adrian's alternator failed at a garage in Frinton-on-Sea after he had just filled up with petrol so he was unable to join the run and Mick Ellis dropped his bike whilst doing a U-turn just before setting off from Judith's home. He suffered bruised ribs but unfortunately Jan suffered two fractures to her arm, which required surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery.



Following the run, Colin has received numerous thank you calls from Pamela, Judith and Sean thanking everyone for their contribution to making a dream come true. They were all absolutely thrilled with the event and are still talking to all their friends about their fabulous day out. Judith and Sean settled the bill for the Tearoom sandwiches and cakes and have absolutely refused to accept any reimbursement.

So a big thanks go to Capital's Taz and Trudy Taslim, who gave Judith a ride on their trike; Joe Sene for taking Sean on his trike; Tony Gull, Bev Francis, David Bauckham, Barry Thurtle, Adrian Ing, Mick and Jan Ellis, and also to 'Ginge' Robinson and Tony Spinks from Broadland Wings.

Now that Adrian has moved out to Essex, only a few Moles catch up with him for a weekend ride out now. Johnny and I haven't seen Adrian for a while but guess who we should bump into on holiday in September but Adrian and Sue. We were enjoying the late summer sun, touring the Lakes for a few days and learning all about our new hybrid car and electric charging points. We had parked up near Grasmere for a walk, photoshoot and an ice cream when Adrian spotted Johnny's photographic pose. He thought he looked familiar. I, meanwhile, was thinking that the chap in the tennis whites looked familiar. Strange, that hundreds of miles from home, we should meet on a footpath with the four of us discovering that we were staying close together in Windermere. We had a nice chat in the sun. Hope you get the alternator sorted soon Adrian.



Social Distancing by Rydal Water



Somebody else touring in their car had a disastrous end to their trip and we are grateful that Bev and Dave survived to tell the story. With thanks for Bev's contribution, here's her description of a close encounter with a tree falling onto Dave's lovely Morgan.

Bev and Dave were travelling on the A134 towards Sudbury, en route to the non-Skegness Light Parade, when the tree came down. They were just driving along and then the next thing was a massive crash and they were engulfed in the tree. Thankfully, the soft top was up at the time and the main part of the tree landed on the car's bonnet and not on the roof. That would have been a completely different story for them both.

Dave has had this car for five years, having previously owned another Morgan for seven. He had driven it to Europe and Switzerland and last November they visited the New Forest. Due to Covid-19, Bev and Dave haven't used the car much this year which is why they decided to go to Skegness in it. If the Light Parade hadn't been cancelled, they would have been on their motorbikes. Sod's law, or what!

The tree blocked the whole road and was removed by all the people who had to stop both behind and in front of them. Dave managed to get out of the car but the passenger door wouldn't open as a piece of branch had gone right through the bottom of the door. Dave had to pull the buckled roof back so that Bev could push herself up and get out through the driver's door. The only injury was a cut finger for her from the broken windscreen.

The police arrived after all the tree had been removed and the car was pushed off the road. Bev and Dave then waited with the police until the recovery was done. At the time of writing, the car is in the hands of a Morgan dealership and repair centre and they are waiting for a decision from the insurers on whether the car will be repaired or written off. It all depends on the chassis as they are all individually handmade.



Squashed Morgan

The couple are still counting their blessings that they weren't badly injured, and we are too. Fingers crossed that the car can be put back to its former glory and Bev and Dave can enjoy a few more miles on the clock.

Capital now has a trio of Blood Runners - after Paul and Buzz, Colin Will has now joined up. He did his first blood run from Basildon to Harlow hospital in mid-September, putting his greedy rack to very good use.



Our Mole Meeting in October had 14 dial ups and included Taz and Trudy as Zoom virgins. He didn't last long though having been called to another neighbourhood meeting a few doors away. Maybe some more Dutch courage for the next one? Gordon also announced that he had officially retired that very day and was busy having to learn the ins and outs of IT and Zooming very quickly. We wish him a very long and happy retirement.

Arriving Harlow Hospital

And finally, another sort of retirement. Andy left London at the beginning of October to move to Wales and Aberystwyth where he will be near his mother, sister and family. So a fond farewell to him, our Westy Mole, as christened by Yetti. Keep in touch.



Bye for now.

Leaving London Town

Miss (Helen) Whiplash