

Capital Wings

It was a sad day just before Christmas when we heard that fellow Mole and Beaver, Adrian Ing, had died from cancer. Adrian's obituary, written by Colin Will, was published in the January 2021 issue of WingSpan.

Johnny and I were glad to have bumped into Adrian and Sue in the Lakes whilst we were all on holiday last September.

I chatted by email to Adrian about this encounter at what turned out to be very close to his passing. He told me that he joined our Region through Jim in Welwyn Garden City. Jim had been a real friend, as indeed had everyone he had met in the Club. They had made him and Sue feel very welcome. A lovely group of people, with many happy memories of all our trips out together.



*Adrian in
Lake District*



*Adrian & Sue
in Switzerland*

Adrian told me that where he's going, there will be a nice white GoldWing waiting for him and he promised to keep some parking spaces for us for when we can all meet up again.

Adrian also told me that he had always wanted a GoldWing way back in 1975 but couldn't afford it, so he got a Honda CB500T instead. This was no match but lovely nonetheless. He waited for the kids to grow up and then got his Wing which was wonderful in every way. There was no other way to ride. Adrian was thankful that Jim is still in touch with the Club they used to go to in Stratford for meetings and more recently, in Epping Forest. Lovely times.

I asked Capital members for their own memories of Adrian and here are five contributions:

Paul Hyett - The last time Sue and I saw Adrian was during a summer trip to Great Bentley, where we also met Colin Will.

At the end of the evening, en route back to London, Adrian and Sue planned to escort us to their favourite fish and chip bar in Frinton-on-Sea, the restaurants all being closed due to Covid which, thankfully, was receding at that time.

But alas, the fish and chip bar was closed. In typically generous fashion but inspired no doubt just a little by his love of riding that iridescent blue GoldWing of which he was so justly proud, Adrian and Sue insisted on escorting us to Walton-on-the-Naze to their second favourite bar.

Once there, Sue and I had a wonderful supper whilst sitting on the sea wall, Adrian and Sue having ridden off into the dusk. As you all know, Adrian preferred riding in the daylight.

I have fond memories of a generous, decent and very humble friend.

Joe Sene - I also have a fond memory of Adrian. While in Slovenia, when we were attending the Super Treffen, I asked Adrian how and when he met his wife, Sue. He told me that she was engaged to be married in a few months time to another chap, so then and there, at their first meeting, he told her that he would make her his bride. True to his word, her engagement was broken off and Adrian and Sue were married and had many happy years and memories together.

Tony and Brenda Gull - I knew Adrian from when he lived in Stevenage. He had a couple of garages en bloc just across the road from my brothers. Once making a connection, I found him to be a lovely man, very proactive, very clever around bikes and very willing to help others. Many a maintenance day was held at my house with Adrian mucking in to sort out little and larger issues with our Wings. We always had a laugh. It always surprised me how out of a single garage came a GL1500, a stunning Valkyrie plus one more I forget. It was like a puzzle when everything had to go back in. I think after his wife Sue passed, I suggested that he move to Frinton, which he did in 2020. He was so happy to find a new lady, also called Sue. They really were like magnets to each other, always together and chuckling. Looking back over the last couple of years, they were made for each other. His stunning blue 1800 was always a sight to behold around Frinton or wherever he went. It always made me smile. What a nice guy and friend. I will really miss him and his banter. Many knew that he only had one eye which also became a party piece. Bless him.



Annie and Chris Easter:

We were doing security at the gates of the Slovenian Super Treffen in 2018 and had already encountered several different languages, with varying degrees of success. We saw a string of bikes coming in and thought: "How are we going to cope with these all at once?". Imagine our utter relief when it turned out to be the Moles arriving, en masse, Adrian included. Phew, I think they were glad to see us as well because of the language problem.

Yetti - As you all probably knew, Adrian had only one eye which is why he only liked riding in daylight. Our trip to Slovenia was worrying Adrian because of this but after the first 200-odd miles, as we stopped for refreshments, he had a beaming smile and said that it was great riding on the right side of the road. With his good eye, it was easier overtaking. Adrian was never worried about people knowing about his dodgy eye. At the Treffen we had a pizza served on little wooden bats. Jeff mentioned a game of table tennis but we had no ball. Adrian duly popped out his false eye for us to pretend to play the game. It made Cupcake feel a bit queasy. Adrian was always up for a laugh. He shall be missed by many.

RIP Adrian.

With the big day looming, Yetti invited WhatsApp members to have some fun and enter the Christmas Fridge Competition. Who had the best stocked fridge ready for Christmas? There was a great number of entries but not all fridge photos were accompanied by their owners' faces and were, therefore, disqualified. Yetti and Ginny had a hard time picking the winner but with a beer and Babycham or two to help them along, results were announced on Christmas Day. In 3rd Place were John and Claire - they must be on a diet judging by their photo



John's Fridge



Doreen's Fridge

2nd Place went to Mike the Hat and Doreen for their lockdown holiday fridge in a campervan

The winners, in 1st Place, were Steve and Carol.

Co-judge Ginny said that their fridge was very neat and health and safety conscious too, with lots of healthy food and drink. Well done Steve and Carol and glad to know you like your prize of a grand fridge magnet in the shape of a decorated Christmas tree. What a surprise!



Steve's Fridge

We also had some fun on New Year's Eve with 28 screens joining in a Zoom meeting to celebrate on the midnight hour. Resolutions were made and Medium AI even laid on some fireworks, transmitted from his Littlehampton garden. We enjoyed them and so did his neighbours. John and Julie are still marooned in Cheshire, awaiting damage to their boat to be repaired. They enjoyed a turkey crown for Christmas lunch but then cried out: "Who ate the turkey?". With no room in the fridge, Julie had put the remains of the turkey out on deck. It was colder there anyway. The problem was that some creature - rat or squirrel - came for a snack so it was cold gammon instead for Boxing Day lunch.

Sadly, we have quite a few poorly Moles. Covid now seems to be hitting us hard. I won't name everybody but we wish them all a speedy recovery. Trudy has also been in the wars and has broken her hand, while Joe and Johnny are recovering from their respective operations.

Finally, as we say goodbye to one Capital member - Adrian's funeral was on the 29th January, we give a warm welcome to new member Steve and his partner Joy on their blue 1500. Steve is Welsh but lives in Cricklewood. His hobby is as a military historian so expect him to have lots of interesting conversations with other Club members. Nigel and Pete - you have been warned.

Please keep safe and here's to a post-lockdown meet-up.

Miss (Helen) Whiplash