

Capital Wings

We continue to offer our thanks and appreciation to all the front-line workers who are looking after us and keeping us safe, fed and watered during our third lockdown.

Charles kindly sent in some words of what life is like for him and his partner in the NHS. Just before Christmas, he and Natalie had a change from front-line operations in an ambulance and were assigned to hospital work. He hoped to have more chance to use the GoldWing to get around if only they could find somewhere Covid-free to store helmets and gear whilst at work in the hospital.



Charles & Natalie

Whilst on front-line (999) ambulance duties, Charles and Natalie pick up an ambulance from base, check the equipment and also load their personal kit into it. Due to all the extra personal kit they currently need to take with them for this 999 work, they are not able to use the GoldWing to get to and from base and so have to use the car. This is useful as the car also goes on local call outs for the community, if appropriate.

In January, the couple were assigned again to a hospital-based role for a week - receiving patients from ambulances to release vehicle crews so that they could go back out more quickly. This work would have allowed them to use the bike to travel to work with less kit but instead Charles and Natalie were re-allocated back to the trucks which was a slight disappointment for them but probably a blessing, leaving them warmer at each end of the shift especially in the current weather conditions.

Charles has said that they are seeing a large number of patients who are very unwell and as he has mentioned on the Club forum, if someone thinks they need an ambulance, please ring and if they can, they will come as soon as possible but there may be delays. Please don't "not ring" because you think the NHS is busy, just in case you've got something that you don't realise is serious.

Charles and Natalie are currently allocated to the East of England Ambulance service but also cover South Central and London services, depending on where the most pressure is. Every day is an unknown set of destinations, potentially from Norwich to Southampton and with a very unknown finish time.

We send our best wishes to them and fellow paramedics.

Capital's Post-Christmas Weekend Bash in Worthing in January sadly had to be cancelled but it turned into a virtual party on Zoom instead. With 18 screens and wearing a selection of novelty hats, the party-goers entered into the spirit even though the technology couldn't always keep up with us. Top Banana organised a 'Sing-a-long' for us all and then there was a dancing competition 'Sickly Come Dancing'.



Sing Along



Rocking the Boat

The voting was chaotic to say the least and the result disputed. Some called for VAR to be brought into play. Whatever, it was all good fun.



Dance Scores

Richard and Carol won the raffle whose prize was a big box of (empty) chocolates. Oh well, that will help with Richard's diet. Roy then introduced his 'TV Theme Quiz' with Kerrie, and John, Julie and Shirley joint winners. A 'Menu Quiz' was devised by Chris and Annie. This was a very clever and scrumptious plate of delights, eventually won by Bev. The party went on for four and a half hours - the longest Zoom call we've ever had since starting them in May 2020.

Following on from the Moley animal character in the recent Ambrosia dessert advert, another Moley has appeared on the scene. Revealed this year at the 2021 digital Consumer Electronics Show, it's a prototype robotic kitchen called Moley that has learned its moves from a professional chef, whose motions were tracked in the same space, making the same dish using sensors and cameras. The robot has been developed after six years of research and at the moment it has 30 recipes in its repertoire. It is said that having the robot prepare a meal is a huge time saver to free up time for other important matters such as renovating motorcycles or just to relax by having a quick knit one, purl one. So the future is here folks and

if you have some readies, the price tag is around £250,000 but more affordable versions are promised!

Many of us have started new hobbies, or resurrected old ones, during lockdown. The most popular one seems to be knitting. Julie has knitted at least 107 'Hugs in a Bag'. Starting with scarves and moving onto snoods and hats, this has turned into an expensive hobby because of the cost of sending them far and wide to family and friends, wide being Australia. John claims that all the wool is weighing the boat down so maybe this was why they hit a submerged object? Annie is also a knitter and is currently making a string vest for Chris? Don't ask. Margaret juggles her knitting with baking cakes. Trudy enjoys crochet and had made at least eight blankets before injuring her hand. Meanwhile, Peggy has started knitting little jackets for premature babies while Phil tackles the construction of a model of Victory. Kerrie has opted for some re-modelling too and has coloured her hair in a semi-permanent shade of purple.



Purple Haze

Capital and friends said our farewells to Adrian at the end of January with an escort of 13 bikes to Weeley Crematorium, near his home in Frinton-on-Sea. In memory, Capital donated £100 to Adrian's preferred charity, Guide Dogs for the Blind.



*Farewell
Adrian*

Please remember that our thoughts are with those of you who have lost family and friends during this past year. We also send our best wishes to those of you who have recovered, or are still recovering, from Covid and hope that this horrid time will soon be over soon. As the late Captain Sir Tom Moore, who at the age of 12 bought his first motorcycle, a broken 1920 Royal Enfield two-stroke, for two shillings and sixpence, and worked on it until it was rideable and who later won several trophies in vintage motorcycle races, said: "Tomorrow Will Be a Good Day."

Take care.

Miss (Helen) Whiplash