

snuggly and warm in our new bike gear just before the sun started to go down."

Thanks to all and everyone for a great weekend from Super Ted and Boudica.

Vintage Jacket 1998!!!

No more for now stay safe, it's a busy world out there.

Diane XXX

Capital Wings

It's good news that social events are gathering momentum and that people are feeling more comfortable to get out and about to meet up with friends and have fun away from the TV repeats, Netflix and DIY. A Capital pre-Christmas get-together is planned for early December and hopefully a Toy Run in the middle of the month. Our New Year's bash in Worthing in January is fully booked and there is even talk of a Capital Wing Ding in the summer of 2022. We also have to celebrate Capital's postponed 40th Anniversary in 2022. And then there are Wing Dings and the postponed British Treffen, so there is much to look forward to.

Capital members are now attending real Mole Nights - we had 14 at the beginning of November including a visit from Welsh Dave who had trucked up to London and the M25 and thought he'd share a pint or two with us. Lovely to see him. I always take my colour-matched notebook with me to meetings and events in the search of nuggets of information to put into my WingSpan Report. Here I am chatting to Chaz and Dave, sorry Taz and Dave.



Capital Reporter at Work

We also fulfilled a long-standing dream of Taz to hold a raffle. We hadn't had one for two years and he had missed them so much. Johnny Chelu came out tops, followed by Bev.

The Belgian Friendship Weekend in Folkestone was held not only over scary Halloween weekend but also because of Covid travel restrictions in place in Belgium, there were no Belgians attending and so for the first time in its history, the event became just a Friendship Weekend.

The usual ribaldry took place and with 80 people attending, including lots of Moles, the hotel must have been pleased with the turnout. Our Belgian Winger friends were sadly missed but Chris Easter set up a Zoom meeting with a few of them on Saturday evening so they were present in a strange sort of way. Yeti got some inside information from their Inter-rep, Fredric, as to where their Treffen would be next year. It's drum roll..... Belgium !! Ha, ha.

Friday was arrival day and a great opportunity to catch up. A few

Moles met up with Stan and Rita for some beers in their local Firkin Alehouse micropub. We hadn't seen them for at least five years. In the evening, it was chatting with Wingers whom we had not seen for a long, long time. There was just a little bit of a hiccup with a Winger trying to flood the hotel from the third floor down to Reception - it was accidental - and a few party goers had to be moved out of the hotel to another one but thankfully they were all back by Saturday.

Saturday evening, as is usual at this event, was a fun night with the fancy dress theme this time of Super Heroes. Lots of men appeared wearing their underpants on the outside trying to look like Superman and many ladies dressed as either Bat or Wonder Woman. As expected, there were a few oddities but well done everyone for making the effort. Lesley Snell as Cat Woman won the best fancy dress competition as judged by the band and the girl member particularly mentioned to Lesley that her bum looked good in itmmmmm.



Four in a Bed



Friendship Weekend Frolics

Afterwards, a few stayed up until 2am to watch the clocks fall back as British Summer Time ended and a small number of new members joined the 2 to 1 Friendship Weekend Club.

Sunday was a wet day so people found things to do in the dry. Yetti and Ginny went on a trip on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway. He never knew that it was a Ginny-sized train. All in all, it was a great weekend with many thanks going to Chris Hinds and Sarah for organising it.



Here's a word of warning.
Ginny-sized Train

You may still be working your way through the Chairman's Challenge list of cafes, so be aware that there are at least three '1066' cafes in Kent. If you do an internet search, make sure you select the right one at Robertsbridge and not the one in a hospital that Chairman Nigel went to. It was a pleasant ride anyway.

The Chairman's Challenge has encouraged Johnny and I to travel to places we probably wouldn't have planned to go to and we have enjoyed our discoveries care of the Zumo sat nav very much. In October, after having tea at the Whistle Stop Tea Rooms in Whitby, we visited the Tees Transporter Bridge in Middlesbrough and after a sandwich at the Seaways Cafe in Fridaythorpe, we spent an afternoon at the RHS Garden Harlow Carr, near Harrogate. You have to have a Betty's afternoon tea when you are close to Harrogate but the queues were huge and we opted for a cuppa instead and discovered *The Four Seasons* sculptures by Philip Haas, the American artist.



Amazing Engineering

We then drove from Yorkshire into Lancashire and the Ribble Valley and visited the castle in Clitheroe. An interesting town with lots of independent shops including Modern Mobility where we chanced to park outside.



Is this a Club Member



Modern Mobility

I've written about the Ambrosia Moley before but look out for the current competition to win a Moley cuddly toy. I happened to see a tin of rice pudding in Sainsbury's, bought it, chanced my luck and won a Moley! Wait time to receive him in the post though is 60 days so I hope he doesn't starve over Christmas. If you like tinned rice pudding and custard, why not chance your luck too? Richard loves a bowl of custard so perhaps we should post some over to him in Spain.

We hope that our Zoom calls will be consigned to memory, just as our Capital Lights Run has become a memory. With congestion and blocked roads around London as well as the Congestion Charge and now the expanded ULEZ, we will never be able to organise that kind of event again.

As Christmas and New Year approach, we say goodbye to 2021. Significant birthdays have been celebrated but some of us have lost parents and other family members during the year and all of us have been affected by the loss of good friends both in the GoldWing community and outside. We will remember their smiling faces and kind acts. We also remember those of us who have suffered severe illness and have had operations and wish them all well on their respective roads to recovery.

And so, we all at Capital wish every single one of our friends and their families a happy and safe time ahead and we look forward to meeting up again in 2022. We send our love and best wishes to you all.

Miss Helen Whiplash