

Tony and Eunice were extremely pleased to announce that £130 was received from donations regarding their Christmas light show when they decorated the outside of their home with thousands of coloured lights - all in aid of SARS - Suffolk Accident Response Service. Many thanks to them for all the hard work involved in putting up and then taking down the many lights.

It is that time of the year when we start planning our trips around GB and visits to Treffens in Europe. But the whole world seems to be in a state of permanent limbo and we are left with great chunks of the calendar blank and nobody seem to know what to do - just watch this space and keep fingers crossed. Only light at the end of the tunnel is to try and cross off a few more cafes from the Chairman's Challenge but a least we'll get a few miles on the bikes.

No more for now - take care and ride safely:- it's a busy world out there. Sent from the depths of the East by an increasingly aged Rebel rider.

Diane XXX

Capital Wings

What a fantastic day Sunday 12th December 2021 was. Capital Wings and friends, on 13 bikes and with four cars, travelled from Essex, Hertfordshire, Suffolk, Kent and London to support our Toy Run. More than 140 presents were delivered to Meldreth Manor, the residential children's home for special needs in Cambridgeshire. These presents were mostly courtesy of GWOCGB members and their friends and together, their generosity raised almost £1,000. What an amazing total. Not all the monies were spent on presents so we also gave Meldreth a cash donation of almost £300.

The event started with a meet up at the McDonalds on the A505 near Royston. There had been some overnight rain but surprisingly, and luckily, it was a mild and dry day unlike previous years when I remember frosty and foggy conditions and a much longer ride along the country lanes. A real run out for us in those days.

It was a gathering of a few Santas, Rudolph and his sleigh, Ginny's sleigh car because there were far too many presents to fit into Yetti's trailer, and of course, all the Santa Elves. Ted and Madeline and their new puppy acquisition, Wingnut, joined us for a chat before waving us off as we stopped the traffic to get on our way to Meldreth. It was good to see them again and we wish Madeline well as she recovers from her postponed operation in January.

The short run was fun and we managed some smiles and waves from people as we drove through the villages to Meldreth. It was probably Buzz as Rudolph on his sleigh that attracted them. Buzz and Shirley have built a sleigh for the back of his Goldwing and he got lots of exposure over the pre-Christmas period because the sleigh was actually used to advertise toy runs in other parts of the country. Meldreth was his fourth run with his invention and he later did Cafe 33 and another run on Christmas Eve (obviously).



Sleigh Ride



Santa's Little Helpers

The children and staff were waiting to greet us when we arrived at Meldreth and we parked up and unloaded all the presents under and around the Christmas tree inside in the hall. Mandy, one of the care managers at Meldreth, was our host and she was delighted with all the gifts.



Toy Run Team

Meanwhile, outside, the Wingers were mingling and chatting amongst themselves and with the children and staff.



Tinsel Bikes



Santa and Rudolph

Then Yetti presented Mandy with a cash donation and that made everyone very happy.



Meldreth Donation



Singing Santas

Joe's star turn was to hand out song sheets and some carol singing then followed. Afterwards, we enjoyed Meldreth's hospitality of a cuppa, sausage rolls and mince pies.



Jingle Bells



Carol Singers



Fascinating Ginny

So, a good afternoon - blowing the cobwebs off the bikes but also bringing Christmas joy to those less fortunate than ourselves. The organising team of Joe, Margaret, Yetti and Ginny would like to say to everyone who participated in the Toy Run - a MASSIVE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Diary date: Sunday 3rd April - Bowling Competition at the Namco Funscape Bowling Alley in Norwich.

Don't forget Valentine's Day and pancakes on 1st March.

Miss (Helen) Whiplash