

## Capital Wings

June has come and gone and with it all the partying around the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the end of the Chairman's Challenge to visit 20 cafes around the UK.

Some of Capital decided to spend the long Bank Holiday weekend on holiday in places like Scotland, Croatia and on the canals around Oxford. Others travelled to the Dutch Treffen where, after enjoying an English Tea Party, the Brits came out in No. 1 position. Yet others ventured to find street parties and outdoor events locally. Golders Hill Park had a Fun Day but it turned out to be a very unfun day for Yetti, Ginny, Wayne, Ingrid and Dani. They were told where to park and then were refused entry because the event was fully booked! Ho, ho. Never mind, a pub is never far away and they all ended up at The Three Horseshoes at Letchmore Heath, near Watford. Lots of fun here - cream cakes were bought and consumed and beers drunk. Wayne even won a hamper in the raffle. So, their day ended on a high. Johnny and I stayed in London and went to our usual spot to watch and photograph the fly past that ends the Trooping of the Colour.

What a wonderful sight with many clapping and cheering as the planes roared overhead. We rounded off the weekend with our own street party and our Wapping neighbour Dame Helen Mirren, famous for playing Queens Elizabeth I and II, appeared on the stage to give a vote of thanks to the organisers and three hearty cheers for Her Majesty The Queen. Here's the RAF's version of three cheers, with the Eurofighter Typhoons in formation over the RAF church St Clement Danes in Aldwych. Our day ended on a high too.



*Seventy Glorious Years*

Johnny and I were keen to complete all twenty of the Chairman's Challenge cafes before the deadline passed. We only had two left to visit and they were in a part of the country where we had relatives and friends. So, Harry's Cafe in Bristol became No. 19 on the list and The Chequered Flag near Liskeard No. 20. How aptly named this cafe was? It was a sheer fluke on our part that it was the last cafe we visited.



*Our Twentieth Chairman's Challenge Cafe*

For the first time, I had not checked the cafe's website to see if, and what time, it was open. Unfortunately for us, it was Tuesday and closed. However, we were greeted by Peter Ierston, salesman at the New Central Garage, next to the cafe, who promptly put the kettle on and we all chatted about the Challenge and AJS motorcycles over a cuppa. What a lovely finish to the Challenge and Peter even took the photo for us.

We enjoyed the variety of cafes we had visited since last May. Some we lingered in, had a good meal and looked at the clothing and bikes on show, others were pretty plain and a quick cuppa sufficed. I agree with Wendy Rakestrow's comments in last month's Wingspan - the Bike Shed and Moto Corsa would be my favourites too. The surprise factor on entering the Bike Shed was enough to blow your mind (can we really get through to the parking area safely past all these people eating and drinking at their tables?). It was spectacular and the Happy Hour Sharing Platter deal was scrumptious too. The Moto Corsa cafe was also a surprise, hidden off the main road, in an oasis of calm and peace. Very beautiful.

With family in Padstow, we have usually travelled from London on the quickest route possible. The Challenge gave us the opportunity to slow down and drive along B roads instead of motorways and to explore towns and villages that we have rushed through before. We saw Devon and Cornwall in a different light, able to admire the wildflowers, daisies, foxgloves and cow parsley in the verges and the purple rhododendrons in gardens and woods.

Western Moles Chris and Annie Easter were only half an hour's drive from The Chequered Flag and we phoned to see if they were at home. Although they had been busy with friends and family visiting them, Johnny and I were able to say hello! and enjoy a delicious homemade afternoon cream tea with Chris and Annie in their sunny garden. The tea turned into a champagne one as we celebrated completing the Challenge.





*Devon Cream Tea Celebration*

It was an action-packed day because in the evening, Chris drove us all to the Fox & Hounds pub in Bridestowe to meet a contingent from Devon & Cornwall Region.

It was a regular meet-up evening for them. We met and enjoyed the company of Brian, Sonya, Roger, Marian and Mark over a meal and a drink. We were not one hundred miles from HM Prison at Princeton.



*No Prisoners Here*

The next day, we met up with Chris and Annie again to explore Tavistock on foot. We walked along the River Tavy and the old Abbey Walls to the Guildhall where we read about the area's mining history and arsenic and walked around one of England's first purpose-built combined court and police station including the cells and interview room. We then explored the Pannier Market before resting with a coffee and toasted tea cake. I didn't know it but Tavistock is a key part of the West Devon and East Cornwall UNESCO World Heritage site. So much interesting history including the point that legend has it that cream teas originated in Tavistock, served by monks to workers restoring the Abbey after a Viking attack. Ancient manuscripts show that the monks of Tavistock's Benedictine Abbey were the people who created the Cream Tea. The Abbey, established in the tenth Century, was plundered and badly damaged by Vikings in 997AD. Restoration of the Abbey was undertaken by Ordulf, Earl of Devon, who rewarded his workers with bread, clotted cream and strawberry preserves made by the monks. Hence a Devon cream tea!

Our thanks go to Chris and Annie for their brilliant hospitality. We had a wonderful time, packing in a lot during our short visit to see them. We even had time for a photo or two.



*Four Moles In Tavistock*



And finally, my usual monthly round-up of congratulations and best wishes. Congratulations to Daz and Sarah on their Silver Wedding Anniversary, celebrated two years late on a recent cruise to the Norwegian fiords. Well done to the Capital gang who won Best Region Turnout at the Yorkshire Wing Ding. Well done also to Dani who passed her driving test in May. How long will it be until she's riding a Goldwing? Best wishes for a continuing good recovery from knee replacement surgery to Big John.


Enjoy the summer and the Wing Dings to come.

Miss (Helen) Whiplash

## *What model have you got?*

There have been five different major models of GoldWings since it was launched in October 1974 (along with the occasional 'specials') – and as the years roll by it's good to know that there are quite a few older Classic Wings still on the road and being well cared for by Club members.

The GWOCCB Classic Section is growing and is becoming more relevant as these older machines get rarer – so it would be good for the membership (especially those who weren't around in the early days) to see photos and read about the stories of Classic Wings in the Club. If you have a Classic, send in your photos with articles about how it came into your possession and why it is so special to you.




## **KEEP YOUR REGIONAL CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE**

It is very important for Regions to keep the Committee (GenSec, Events Secretary, Membership Secretary) as well as the WingSpan Editor up to date with any contact changes.

It is one of the duties of Regional Reps to inform us about any changes – whether they are new regional committee members, changes to phone numbers or email addresses, etc. – so we can keep our national records current as well as publish the correct details in the *WingSpan*.

Please bear this in mind as we are getting close to the time when Regions are organising their Annual General Meetings.