

Capital Wings

A lot of Moles appear to have gone underground on holiday and are enjoying themselves too much to find time to send in their news for us all. They do, however, post photographs on our Moles WhatsApp group but with little description. Sometimes, it becomes a 'guess the story' affair. So, apart from two significant events that I will report on later, here are some interesting photos for which you may know more than I.

An interesting juxtaposition - one from Phil, the other from Dave, Postman Pat.



Just Resting



Just Snoring

Brian appears to be asleep but he's probably only resting and thinking about the next stage of his narrow boat journey. Perhaps it has been a long day at the helm, navigating the River Severn and avoiding the structures of the M5, with Phil?

Georgia, meanwhile, appeared in a beautiful photo.



Exotic Georgia

What was she celebrating? Was she home on leave or was she just hungry? Maybe she can't get this deliciousness in the Army.



Yeti posted the results of his handiwork with two arty photos.

Cask Stands Laying Down



Master at Work

The ales and ciders - all 1,000 pints of them - have been ordered and their collection/delivery organised but what are they going to stand on? In preparation for their display in the Real Ale Bar at the British Treffen, Yetti searched the Internet for suitable cask stands. Prices were exorbitant so he set to to manufacture his own stands with a bit of sawing, sanding and sticking together. Well done him but I hope 13 isn't an unlucky number and that all the drink is consumed satisfactorily. (I'm sure it was.)

You may have heard about Alan Russell's medical emergency at the South Wales Wing Ding in July. The good news, at the time of writing this report, is that Alan is now back home in Essex after a three week stay in a Cardiff hospital. With the help of daily physio, messages of encouragement from friends and fellow Wingers and a steely determination to get himself better, Alan is making a remarkable recovery from his stroke.



Alan - On the Road to Recovery

He wants to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped get him quickly to hospital for treatment - South Wales Rep Malcolm Green and his wife Irene and all at the campsite in Usk for their quick thinking and action; Dave Withers for driving to South Wales to collect Alan's motorhome and take it back to Essex; all the medical staff at the hospital including apparently a good looking blonde physio who has done wonders; and all in Capital, Essex and other Regions who have regularly sent get well messages and kept the banter going. 200 miles is a long way from home when you are alone in hospital. If there is one learning from this episode, it is perhaps that single motorhome occupants should leave a second set of their keys

elsewhere on the campsite so that access can be gained in an emergency. Keep up with the good work, Alan, slowly but surely does it.

In Capital, our emergency workers include paramedics Charles and Natalie, blood runners Colin and Buzz and firefighter Emma, Roy's daughter. Based at Southgate Fire Station, Emma was called out to three separate incidents on the hottest day so far in the UK. On 19th July, the kebabs were well and truly burnt as she attended a fire at a Turkish restaurant in Palmers Green. Then she went to Dagenham



Buzz's Burning Fires'

and finally, onto Wennington, near Rainham, Essex to fight raging fires across rows of terraced houses, outbuildings and acres of grassland. You will probably have seen the news reports on this terrible devastation. We suffered on this hot, hot, hot day at 40 degrees C doing just nothing so imagine how Emma and her colleagues felt. Brave people with a lot a stamina. Well done to them all.

And so, just to say that Joe and Margaret's Macmillan Tea Party will start at 2pm on Saturday 10th September.

Hope you enjoyed the British Treffen. 40 years and counting - crikey!

Miss (Helen) Whiplash

Devon & Cornwall Wings

Lincolnshire was the first of this month's Wing Dings, held in the lovely town of Market Rasen which, although within walking distance, is obviously suffering from lack of staff as the pubs were either not selling food at all or taking 90 mins to fulfil orders but if you've got other wingers to chat to the time soon passes! Pete & Di and Peter & Wendy made the trip and were well rewarded with Di winning the first horse race (!), Pete winning the top prize on the quiz (with only a little help from Graham, John, Peter & Wendy) and then the Furthest Travelled award went to Peter R which was a very stylish and heavy glass tankard. They also had the novel idea of handing out 'wristbands' to the bikes as well as humans so no horrible sticky stuff left on windscreens. There was a very interesting ride out to the new International Bomber Command Centre - well worth a visit if in the area, or even if you have to plan one!



Longest Distance at Lincs