

Firstly, an appreciation of our Capital friend - Mike Pearce. It was with great sadness that we heard the shocking news that Mike had passed away suddenly on 15th December 2022.

Mike was an active and long-standing member of Capital Wings whilst living in Walthamstow and over the years he supported the Region with Doris - Dottie - at our many events. Their door was always open to all GB members and also to GoldWingers from the USA.



Mike was known for his comical speeches at Capital events and was always up for some fun whatever the occasion. He was General Secretary of the GWOCGB - another job he put his heart and soul into. There are so many stories we could tell, great memories that will always be in our hearts forevermore.

Ride free our friend, you will be missed by so many.

Our love and thoughts are with Doris and family at this sad time. Here's a couple of photos of a younger Mike - one posing on a quad bike which we believe was taken at the Kelso Treffen in 1999 with some American wingers. The other shows him as part of Capital in our 2006 Christmas card.



▲ *Mike on a Quad Bike.*

Saturday 17th December saw 14 Moles meet up for a pre-Christmas evening meal. Unfortunately, Chris and Jo had to cancel as their country residence in Essex (they now live in Norfolk) had frozen water pipes. It had been a bit cold that week when snow arrived suddenly but joyfully on the previous Sunday. Trish was also worried about travelling back to Essex after the meal and couldn't make it either. As expected, there was much fun, eating and drinking. Santa never appeared - he was snowed up elsewhere - but he sent his stand-in, Ginny, to hand out lots of chocolate money to everyone.

It was a great night and there was even more fun to be had as people left the restaurant. The car park was still snow covered



▲ Buzz's Sleigh

but as it got colder in the evening, the surface froze and a few cars needed help to literally slip out of the car park. The good news was that Buzz was there waiting with his trusty Land Rover, ready to pull the skaters out.



Roll on next Christmas, ho, ho, ho when Buzz can also ride his sleigh again.

That's all for now folks.

Miss (Helen)
Whiplash

◀Pre-Christmas Party