



CAPITAL WINGS



Another shortish Report as we still have some poorly Moles and our get-togethers at The Woodbine Inn have been cancelled due to sickness and holidays. Very little happening at the moment apart from a significant wedding anniversary that I hope was celebrated heartily. Congratulations to diamonds Phil and Peggy Peskett who notched up 60 years of wedded bliss on 1st February. Here's a super photo of the happy couple after getting hitched.



You may have noticed a snowy ski photo of me in last month's report and wondered what that was all about. Well, a little gremlin liked the photo and somehow managed to slot it into the text. So let me explain.

Escaping from the cold, wet and sleety snow in the UK, a few Moles ventured to the real snow in Switzerland and France in January to satisfy their annual desire to ski or snowboard on new snow or hard-packed snow or even ice whilst delighting in the magnificent scenery and mountains. Bev, Dave and Rocky travelled in their

motorhomes to Lauterbrunnen but haven't been heard of since so perhaps they are still tunnelling through the Jungfrau region. Johnny and I had a three week road trip exploring both Swiss and French resorts. Climate change has certainly hit the Alps and we experienced fresh snow, clear blue skies and then strong winds (not the result of our fondues!), rain and warm temperatures not conducive to keeping snow on the ground. Snowy pastures became brown and then green landscapes. All very beautiful to experience but not on a skiing holiday and not in January.

The view in last month's photo had me standing on the piste at the Pointe des Mossettes with Switzerland and Les Dents Blanches and Les Dents du Midi on one side and Avoriaz in France down on the other. Here are a couple more photos to make you jealous, maybe.



Les Dents du Midi Backdrop.

Balloon Festival.



We finished our trip with a visit to Chateau-d'Oex said to be the *World Alpine Capital of Hot Air Ballooning*. The International Festival of Balloons is held every year at the end of January and we were lucky to be staying near there. Lots of colourful balloons floating down the valley in glorious sunshine. Then we drove to see Jed Halpern and Cristelle and they send their best wishes to those of you who have participated in his SAP and BAR Tours. We hardly recognised the drive up to their house near Saxon because all the snow had melted, the sun was shining and it was so Spring-like. We had to record our get-together. Jed was wearing an inappropriate tee-shirt - he said it would bring back memories for some people but instead you can see just two of us.



Four Capital Mugs!

Finally, we must remember Mike Harrington at HGB Motorcycles who sadly passed away in January.

One sunny weekend - it was Easter 1991- Johnny thought that we should go and test drive a Gold Wing. After an accident with our previous motorcycle that had left Johnny with a weak shoulder, he decided that we must try out a Gold Wing. Very old-fashioned bike I thought but the driving position would suit him. HGB was our nearest dealer in London and off we set. We test drove a blue 1200 Aspencade and a gold 1200 Limited edition. There was no argument. We were smitten immediately and Mike sold us our very first Gold Wing - the beautiful blue one. This was the motorcycle that was later stolen, then recovered and converted into a plain Jane. No-one else was going to own our first Wing and we still have her.

So, it was through Mike's gentle selling and friendly manner that we have been part of the GWOCGB for so many years. Interestingly, we later discovered that Chris Wood was also test riding bikes that same weekend and Mike sold him the Gold Wing. Our condolences go to Mike's family.

Get well everyone, ready for the Easter bunnies and chocolates, so that we can start planning this season's motorcycling activities.

Miss Helen Whiplash

