



# CAPITAL WINGS



As we move into the Autumn season, we have to reflect on the fun and good times enjoyed amongst friends at Treffens across Europe and also Wing Dings in the UK this year. A lot of us turned up at the brilliant Treffen in Oakham at the end of August so the Moles send a huge thank you to Tony Perkins and his band of merry men and ladies who made the occasion the place to be on the Bank Holiday weekend.

The Treffen Real Ale Bar was a great success and head brewer and organiser, Yetti, sends a massive 'thank you' to everyone who sponsored a beer or cider or bought a pint or two over the bar for themselves. Thanks also go to all the Moles who arrived early to help set up and then break down the bar on the Monday. The job couldn't have been done without your help.

Thanks also to Thames Valley & White Horse Region for running the bar on Friday night. This gave the Capital team a wonderful break to catch up and natter with friends on the other side of the bar. It is rumoured that Grubs helped the Wonkey Donkey beer to be the first to run dry. Also thanks to Centre Region for running the bar on Saturday. They too did a good job as both beers and ciders started to run out fast. For the record, the first cider to run dry was Kipling Kwencher Blackcurrant.

All the bar staff including the Treffen bar looked good in their pink aprons didn't they. Even Big John. Yetti was modelling his when he accepted the Best Bike prize for his 1200 in the static bike display competition. A sparkling machine as always so well done to him.

Smart Apron for a Smart 1200 ►

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The Real Ale Bar's takings were £2,007, a great amount for the Treffen. You can work out how many pints were downed because a firkin of beer measures 72 pints and a pin of cider 36 pints.

Recognition should go to those who sponsored the alcohol so here's the official list:

Sussex Wings : Kipling Kwencher; Dave & Bev : Mersea Girl; Grumpy & Von : Golden Rain; Kent Wings : Kentish Maids; Pete & Wendy : Agricultural Arrest AA; Chris & Annie : Egg Seedingly Good Choice; John & Julie : The Grey Nomad; TV & WH Wings : Wonkey Donkey; Yorkshire Wings : How Much?; Dougal & Paula : Dougal Dumpling; Nigel & Bob : Cunning Stunt; Broadland Wings : Bear Juice; Carl, Tara, Rob & Shaz : Holey Moley; and South Wales Wings : Blodwyns Revenge.

Sadly, there will be no Real Ale Bar at next year's Treffen (rules and regs I think) but "We will return."

Johnny and myself and a few more Moles enjoyed the run out to St Neots on Friday. After a stormy and windy night weather-wise, the day was fine and sunny as we rode by golden and biscuity-coloured fields with stacks of hay of various shapes and sizes. Farmers were busy too on their fork-lift trucks moving the bales onto lorries. We passed quite a few of them on our run. Interestingly, I saw one field advertising *Weetabix* so now you know where the wheat comes from. I've since read that all *Weetabix* Original wheat is grown within 50 miles of the company's factory in Burton Latimer, North Northamptonshire. Not a lot of people know that. We drove through Clopton which sounded like somewhere in 'Allo 'Allo! but we by-passed Wing.

Saturday's run out, in contrast, was very wet and windy and we ended up in Melton Mowbray. Most people managed to find Ye Olde Pork Pie Shoppe and stocked up with goodies for themselves and friends back at the campsite.



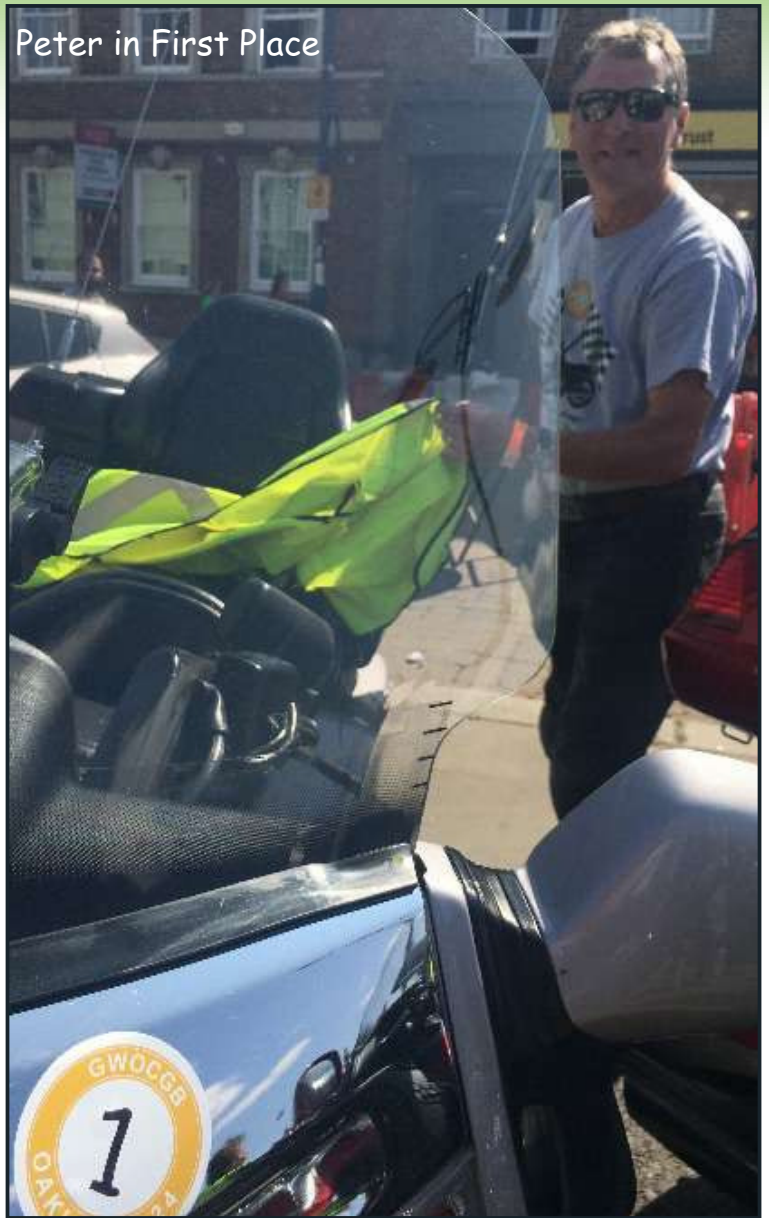
Melton Mowbury Run Out



Melton Mowbury Marshalls

A big thank you should go to Cheryl and Alan Roulston who organised the run outs and parades during the weekend. The marshalls did a grand job of keeping us safe and together and here they are in Melton Mowbray before the return ride back to the site. Peter Rakestrow was keen to keep to time and had already got into position away from the photograph, so thanking him with another photo and his special inscription number (a fluke apparently).

Like many Treffens, the British had a fancy dress theme but not many people appeared to participate. I worked on a 'farms and farmers' theme and did not get the memo about 'farmyard'. Hey, ho. There were still a lot of laughs around particularly from Hilary and Tara and their dog friend and also from Annie and Chris trading tokens with their noisy ducks.



Peter in First Place

Just Quacking Along ▼



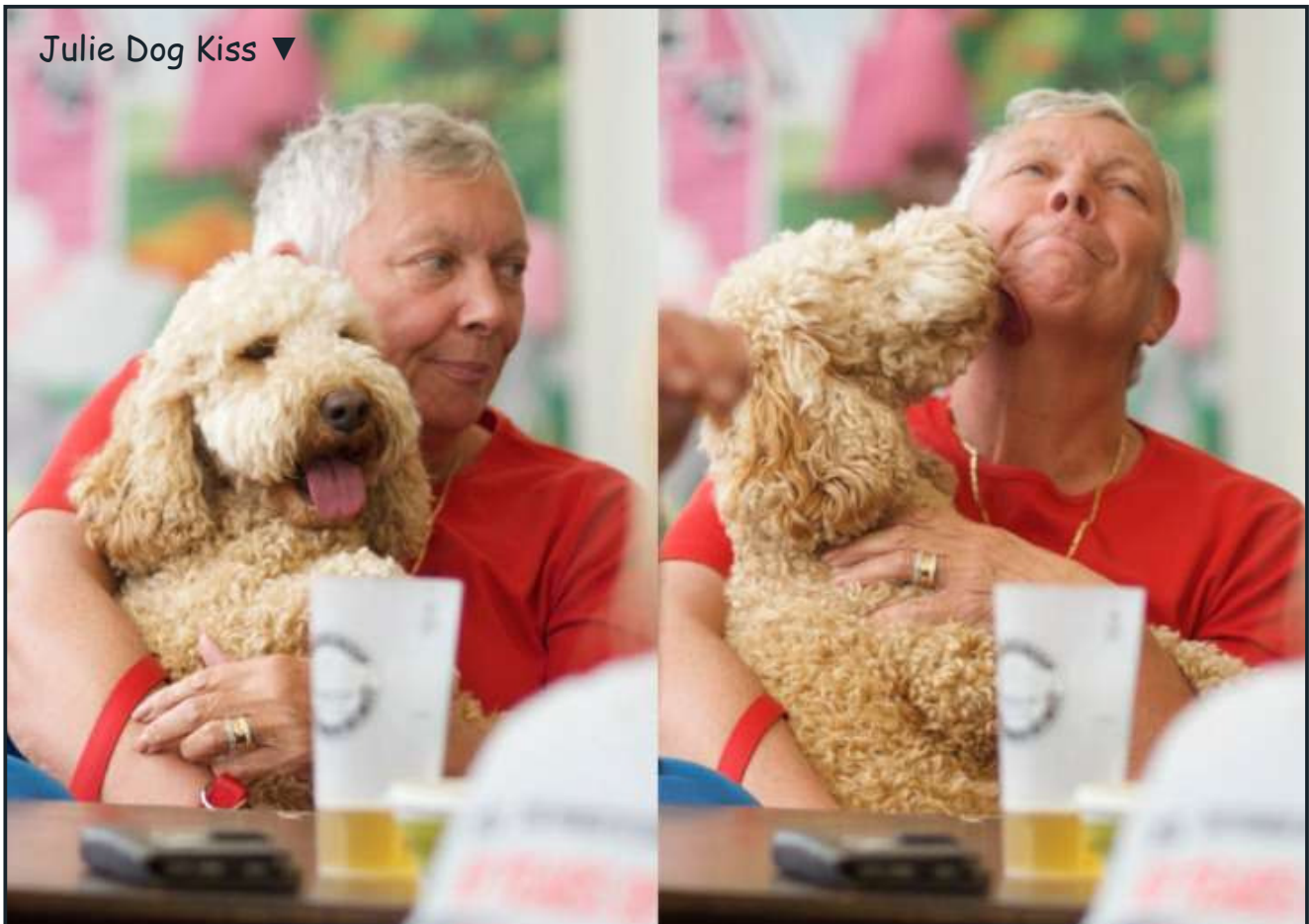
Silly old Moos ▲



It was good to hear live music on Saturday night and we all sang along to the Beatles tribute band's songs. Not so much dancing as singing with nostalgia. Ray Hatfield with his guitar on Sunday afternoon provided the rock and roll and many enjoyed his set, relaxing with their pets and with a beer or ice cream after the busy Top Box sale.



Julie Dog Kiss ▼



Johnny and I, Wayne and family and I'm sure others visited Normanton Church at the edge of Rutland Water, the largest man-made lake in the UK, on Sunday afternoon. The reservoir was completed in 1977 and now covers an area of 3,100 acres but to make it, it was necessary to flood a large part of the parish of Empingham. Sadly, this meant the destruction of some local communities and both the village of Nether Hambleton and Middle Hambleton were cleared. Nether Hambleton was once a sizeable settlement during the Medieval period but all that remains of its former glory is the splendid structure known as Normanton Church.



Normanton Church

On Sunday evening, quite a few Moles received their Super Tour Award (STA) 2023 and Nigel and Hilary were presented with the Horst Gaebel 'Wingers of the Year' Award so our congratulations go to them. The presentations were a little muddled so here's hoping everyone got the correct glass trophy. The British Treffen brings people together who we haven't seen for a while so it was heartening to see those who have had accidents or been ill over the year join us Moles - David, Carl, Alan, Nigel, Gordon and Alison. On the other hand, we are saying goodbye to John and Julie as they head back to Australia for a few months. We wish everyone well and happy travels.

As Yetti would say: "We ain't got long."

Miss (Helen) Whiplash