



## CAPITAL WINGS



In February, we reported on Yetti reaching 30 years as Capital's Rep. This prompted a number of memories from the day on our WhatsApp including the catalogue boys (Big Al and Daz) and a reminder that Ginny had not only managed 32 years as our Treasurer but actually 35 years.

So, a big congratulation to Ginny for her longevity. Can anyone else in GWOCGB match that I wonder.

In a co-incidence of timing, our Joint Rep. 30 years ago turned up at our meeting place in Epping in the middle of February to say "Hello!" Many of us were out of the country on holiday so sadly couldn't enjoy the natter but Yetti said it was great to see Richard and Karen Monksfield again.

Richard was the Capital Rep. before Yetti and then they became Joint Reps. Together they gave birth to the Moles on a boat trip on the Norfolk Broads. Richard was also one of the main instigators of Mole Street Circular which started in October 1991. Let's hope we can all catch up together during the summer.

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*The Monksfields with Trudi*

The Moles are currently flung all around the globe - visiting family, on holiday or living in warmer places other than the UK. John and Julie are still in Australia but Johnny and myself gave them a run for their money during February when we became the South Atlantic Moles. We escaped the wet weather in London to go on a trip of a lifetime to Antarctica via Ushuaia in southern Argentina, fondly known as The End of the World.

The wildlife - penguins, whales, seals and seabirds, and beautiful landscapes and scenery were breathtaking as we followed in the steps of explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton on his *Endurance* expedition to the

continent. Our own Expedition Team on our ship were very knowledgeable and skillful to allow us to land on beaches and islands that not many people have trodden on before so it was a truly magical experience. We even came across the iceberg A23a that you may have heard about floating towards South Georgia. The world's biggest iceberg split from the Antarctic coastline in 1986 but it swiftly grounded in the Weddell Sea, becoming, essentially, an ice island. At almost 4,000 sq. km (1,500 sq miles) in area, it's more than twice the size of Greater London.

The near-trillion-tonne frozen block began its spin at the beginning of this year, heading towards South Georgia on a route that we were crossing. It's incredible to think that it is such an enormous size and we were actually there to see and photograph it. Our Captain obviously had to sail around it to avoid a collision! The iceberg has since run aground off the remote British territory of South Georgia in the South Atlantic so we had wonderful timing in order to be able to experience it.

We are still busy editing all our photographs and the video Johnny made but here is a small selection of our memories.



*Giant Iceberg A23a off South Georgia*



*King Penguins on South Georgia*



*The Lemaire Channel at Antarctica*

And finally, more congratulations, this time to Dani, for her 21st birthday in March. She celebrated with a trip to the theatre and a get-together in Covent Garden. It only seems like the other day that she was a little baby dressed in that Dalmatian's onesie.

Miss (Helen) Whiplash