

CAPITAL WINGS



May Day dawned very hot, a real treat for this time of the year. It was also Mole Night and a delight to welcome back home Big John and Julie who had returned earlier that day from Australia, together with Chris and Jo. Lovely to catch up with them although they were struggling to keep their eyes open at times! J&J now own three Gold Wings in various countries so probably best to chat with them soon before they travel off on more adventures.

We were entertained on May Day evening to a display of Morris dancing in The Woodbine car park. Hailing from Chingford, six Morris men and ladies skipped, hopped, rattled their bells and waved their hankies whilst demonstrating four dances in front of the pub crowd. They danced in the Cotswold style - six dancers to a set, using wooden sticks or handkerchiefs. They have a comprehensive diarry of dates touring around Essex and Germany this summer so look out for them dressed in red, yellow and green, with a badge adapted from the old Chingford

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Borough coat of arms with elements representing Epping Forest, the River Ching and Essex county. All good fun.



Woodbine Morris Dancing

It's just a few weeks to go before the Capital Wing Ding - "Mole Watch" - in Southend-on-Sea.

The theme for the Saturday night is 'seaside' so knotted hankies and string vests or come as a seagull or anything sea-related - pirates and mermaids will be most welcome.

The Wing Ding site is just a short distance from Southend's famous pier, the longest pleasure pier in the world, only 1.3 miles long! Don't worry there is a train to take you there and back if you don't want to walk. There are plenty of fish and chip shops, sticks of rock, ice cream and arcade machines. If you fancy being a kid again, you have Adven-June 2025 Page 41

ture Island to play in. From the Wing Ding site, you can either ride in or just outside, there is a bus stop so you can sample a tipple or two with your cockles or whelks and not have to worry about driving back.



Seafood Fayre'

We hope to see you all on Friday 27th to Sunday 29th June at the Ekco Social Club for a weekend of fun and friendship. Don't forget the words of an old 1907 song: "Oh I do like to be beside the seaside, Oh I do like to be beside the seaside. Bet you all started singing that one, didn't you?

Phil and Peg, Al, Kerry and Chloe and Yetti and Ginny joined Sussex Wings to display their Wings at the Motorcycle Day at Amberley Museum, near Arundel, on the May Day weekend. Yetti reported that it was a great day, thank goodness the rain held off and there were

more bikes than he had expected. They ranged from our Wings to little mopeds.

Yetti counted seven Vincent HRDs and more BSAs than you could shake a stick at. The visitors wandered around the many displays and themed buildings on the site and particularly enjoyed looking at the Communications museum, recognising old mobile phones and landline units - the good old Trim phone (Tone Ring Illuminator Model) that they used to use. There was also a Craft building, Industry building, Transport building and hidden trails, all of which would take more than one full day to explore.



Al and Kerrie in Guards Air Raid Shelter

Yetti took an open-top ride on an old bus and also breathed in the steam on the narrow gauge railway - just like big kids. Did you know that Amberley Museum was one of the main filming locations for the 1985 James Bond film A View to a Kill? The old chalk pits and quarry tunnel were transformed into the fictional Main Strike Mine.

The day finished off with the obligatory tea and cakes in the café. It was a good day to

catch up with the Sussex Wingers and a big thank you goes to Jill, the Sussex Rep., for inviting us. We hope the event is on again next year because we would love to join you all again.



Mick, Jill and Ginny

If you are in the area, the Museum is well worth a visit - see www.amberleymuseum.co.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you at our Wing Ding at the end of June. Until then

Miss (Helen) Whiplash