



CAPITAL WINGS



I know we own motorcycles with wings, but this year just seems to have flown by - again.

Capital, as a region has managed to stay together without conflict, led by our trusty Yetti and Ginny, and although we are spread far and wide across the country and across the continents too, many of us gather regularly at our monthly meetings at The Woodbine. We're always there on the first Thursday of the month to natter over a pint of beer or juice and have a nibble from the pub's menu. There was one occasion this year, however, when Johnny and I were the sole attendees and we found lots of parking space for our 1200. The pub decided eventually to repair the wall to its car park and Yetti sent out a late notice that the meeting was cancelled due to lack of space because of re-building. We didn't get the message in time and arrived to park up and have supper on our lonesome. I'm pleased to report that there is now a spic and span car park ready for parking.



Lonely Tonight

The highlight of the year was our *MoleWatch '25 Wing Ding* in Southend-on-Sea in June. It was a successful weekend and a hot, steamy one too weather-wise. Looking back, we had a great summer, didn't we?

Bev, Dave and Colin Will, meanwhile, have separated from us to re-form Essex Wings so good luck to them. We'll still be friends!

We have also had to say a final, fond farewell to John and Julie who no doubt are having fun now in sunny Australia. Over 90 people attended a party they held at Steeple, Essex in the middle of October. Unfortunately, we couldn't make the Saturday night party so joined a group on Sunday for a carvery lunch. The camping area was quiet until we discovered the ladies in Julie's camper van. We squeezed in and it was good to catch up with people we hadn't seen for a while. Julie was busy on her phone organising something or other with Liz sitting beside her, pondering, in what would soon become her new travelling home.



Julie and Liz

Meanwhile, Johnny and I have been trawling through our 2025 'overflow' photographs to recall a few events of the year.

Some Light Parades have been more successful than others, based on numbers participating and the time of departure but here's a static display that we admired at the Luxembourg Treffen.



Luxembourg Lights

Our scenic ride back home through Belgium and France ended in a delicious supper in a hidden garden on a late summer, sultry evening in Belgium. No foody photograph here, just a still life.



Resting helmets

The meal was a nice memory of our trip because the huge queues that greeted us at Calais port were chaotic.

We had a bad experience with the Shuttle once so prefer the ship. Goodness knows what will happen next year when all the new travel regulations come into force.

As WingSpan reporters, we're always on the lookout for interesting stories. Wendy, the Devon & Cornwall Rep. and Reporter, is no different.

Here we are, caught in the act of comparing notes.



Reporters Two

We've just heard that Bob Simpson has resigned from the National Committee. Future Treffens will certainly be different from now on and we'll miss his presence on the stage.

With thanks to him and Sonja for all their efforts over the years, here's a snapshot from the Italian Treffen in Imola this year.



Thanks Bob

So, as 2025 comes to an end, we remember loved ones and friends who are no longer with us. Some Capital members - Yetti, Ginny, Roy and Steve O, as well as four from Essex Region and ex-Winger Gary Collett - attended the Remembrance Sunday event at North Weald Airfield on 9 November. There was a very moving poppy drop over the nearby church as they remembered those who had served, and are still serving, for our country. Big Al and Phil also attended services and parades near their home.



Dakotas on parade

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and the best New Year wherever and whoever you celebrate the festive season with. We look forward to a terrific time together in 2026. Miss (Helen) Whiplash