



CAPITAL WINGS



At the April Mole Night meeting it was good to see Essex visitors Rocky, Bev and Dave and our Spanish visitors, Richard and Carol. Little did Richard know that we would meet up again very soon. We had our usual raffle and two of the winners chose to pick 'Open the Box'. Bev and Dave won a chocolate Easter egg apiece and were very happy, especially chocoholic Dave. Pity that they decided to leave on their long journey home and missed out on more chocolate as Ginny then produced a packet of chocolate lollies for us to share. The packaging was deceiving because it included ducks and frogs, but we all ate a little bunny rabbit. Very enjoyable.



'Easter Bunnies'

Family, friends, neighbours and Goldwing friends were invited to a Surprise party on 4th April at the Link Club in Harlow to celebrate Richard's forthcoming 80th birthday. Invitations asked us to arrive ahead of Richard who thought he was going to a Bowls Quiz at 8pm. We waited, fizz in hand, while Richard was traditionally late in arriving. The ruse worked because we gave him the biggest surprise of his life when he entered the 'quiz' room. Greeted by his son Simon, the celebrations began.



Surprise, Surprise!



'Welcome to Your Party'

The room was decorated with silver, white and blue balloons and with '80' on a lite sign, on the napkins, on posters displaying photos of Richard through the ages, on two birthday cakes and on postcards placed on the tables requesting that we "Please share your thoughts and kind words" about birthday boy. Richard was everywhere.



'80 Years Postcard'

Guests were seen writing away and the postcards were then posted into a glass container with many other birthday cards, set on a table spread out with presents.



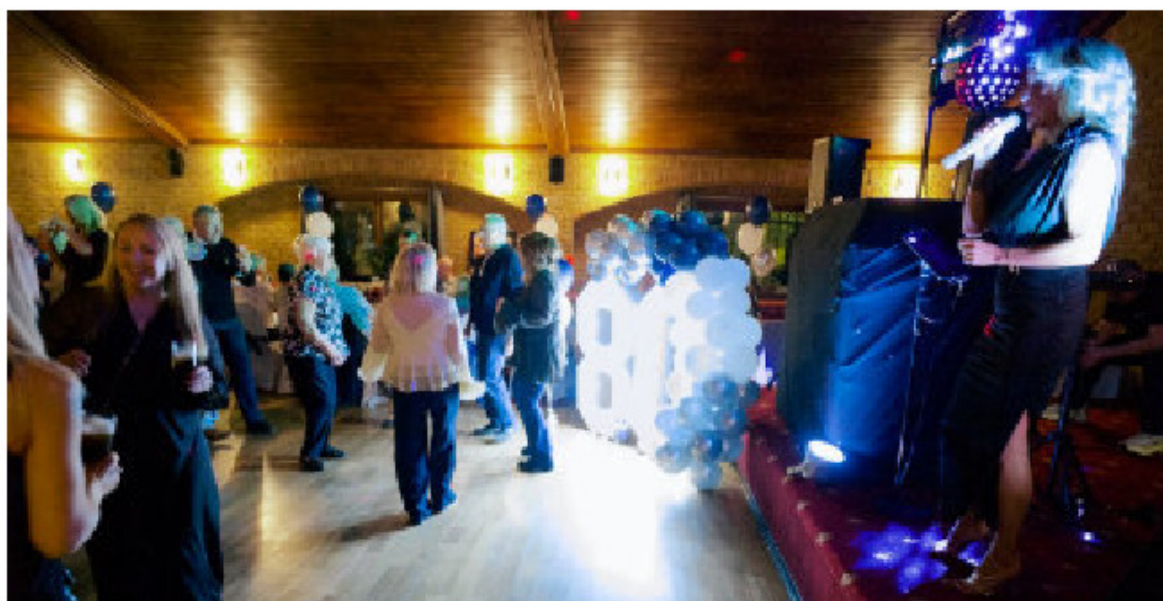
'Birthday Cards and Memories'

After enjoying the fizz and canapés and talking excitedly to a smiling Richard as he circulated around the room and said hello! to everyone, we were invited to have a fish and chips supper. The delicious food was courtesy of a mobile van in the car park outside. We queued up as the sun was setting and a Capital group happened to come together, with service very swift and with mushy peas.



'Fish and Chips Mobile'

We were entertained all evening by music either from a DJ or from a live singer - Lisa Hammond. She was excellent with a good mix of songs that suited the audience. And so the party continued with a hearty rendition from all of 'Sweet Caroline'.



'Party Time'

Meanwhile, a special presentation was being made by Capital to Richard to recognise his landmark birthday. Richard is known to enjoy his pudding after a meal, but it must be served with jugs of custard. Yetti organised a yellow t-shirt to acknowledge this and presented Richard with it. 'I am only here for the custard' was an apt caption as Richard was photographed with a tin of Ambrosia custard (as in the Mole TV advert) and a pack of Tesco custard in case he felt hungry later on. The t-shirt was accompanied with a card containing money from 11 Capital members for Richard to treat himself to something probably shiny.



'Custard Time'

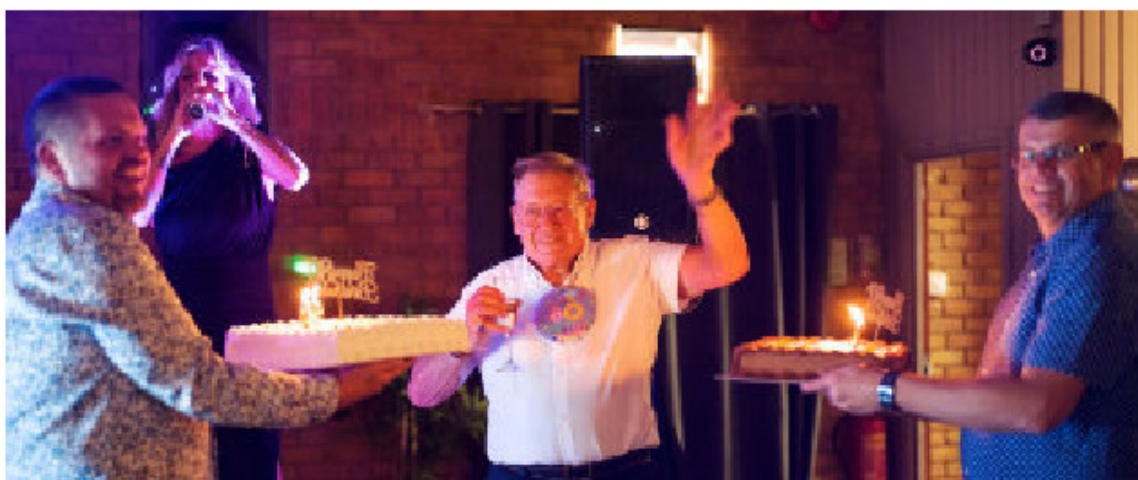


'Yetti and Richard'

After this it was time for more food and that meant birthday cake so two huge cakes were presented by Richard's sons Mark and David and then the cakes were cut and distributed.



'Twin Cakes and More'



'Cake Time'

More cake then followed because it was also Rocky's birthday although he is a baker's dozen in years behind Richard. Congratulations to him too.

The evening ended at midnight after we had all said our thank yous for the invitation and our farewells. What a super party.

Well done to Carol, Simon, Mark and David, who with their families, organised a terrific, very memorable party. Richard partied through the weekend at other get-togethers with family and friends, so I bet he's happy to be back in Spain now, relaxing in the sun.

Capital send our congratulations again to Richard and many said they looked forward to celebrating his 90th.

Finally, to end this Report, we all send our congratulations to Kerrie who celebrated her 'Sexy Sixty' birthday in March with a quieter affair to Richard and also to Linda, Buzz's Mum, who reached 'Hundred not out' in April.

Miss (Helen) Whiplash