

## Capital Wings

Capital's Zoom meetings regularly attract 15-20 screens of people so if you haven't tried it yet, please join us for Mole Night and the interim monthly catch up. It was wonderful to see Bingo Dave join us in March after his desperate fight against Covid which he vividly described in his postings. He's at home now and getting stronger, slowly, every day. Good news and we hope he will be able to join us for rides when lockdown allows us. We send our best wishes to Dave and also to Martin who is recovering from a heart attack.

Skipper Jim was a new face on the screens in March. It took him a while to get the hang of Zoom because he was upside down on the screen. Maybe it was his boating instincts. Anyway, together, we sorted him out and got him right-side up so that he could enjoy his supper and a cuppa with us.

It is a pity that our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Treffen has been postponed but we welcome the idea to have a National Rally this year instead and the initiative to have a GWOCGB Biker Cafe Challenge. Capital are certainly up for the latter, with at least 20 of us game to have a few bacon butties and coffee around the country.

Mo and Julie also joined our last Zoom meeting with their fluffy dog and having moved to Cambridgeshire, they are slowly turning into Tom and Barbara from *The Good Life*. In this BBC programme, the pair converted their garden into a farm, getting in pigs and chickens and growing their own crops. Julie announced that they would soon be getting four chickens - three ladies and a "small cock". Well you can imagine that the conversation went off at a tangent then with jokes about male chickens and who had the biggest. Coming back to reality, the chickens apparently were gifted by a neighbour, complete with

their hen house which has been refurbished. More jokes! The house, chuck, now has to be named - 'Oven Ready', 'KFC' and 'The Yolk House' were suggested.

Our Wingnuts are growing up fast. Amber celebrated her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in February with lots of lovely presents and Dani her 17<sup>th</sup> in March. Dani was given driving lessons as a present so beware everyone when Wayne and Dani get out on the road!

And finally, you may have been scared by the front cover of the GWOCGB Events Guide 2021 that was issued recently. Ginny and Yetti look like they may be smiling through gritted teeth because of all the cancelled events so far this year but we thoroughly understand that we have no control over how we live whilst the pandemic continues.

You may also have noticed that only one person was listed under 'London' although there are more of us Moles around the city. In addition, numerous Moles have now moved out to neighbouring counties and during recent discussions, it has been proposed that a new GWOCGB Super Region called S.E. England be created by merging Hertfordshire, Essex, Kent and Sussex with Capital. Obviously, details still have to be fully worked out but if you would like to be part of the discussion, please contact Yetti or Rocky and let them know your views.

Keep on keeping safe.

Miss (Helen) Whiplash



## Obituary

### Peter Russell (1937- 2021)



Our dear Capital member, Peter, passed away on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March. He had felt unwell and was taken to hospital where he suffered heart failure. The end was very quick and unexpected.

Peter was always into motorbikes and for many years he visited the Isle of Man to watch the TT races. He was a member of GWOCGB for over 25 years and went to Treffens all over Europe.

He founded a UK chapter of our sister club, Gold Wing Road Riders Association (GWRRA) and as its Global Affairs Director spent many years travelling around the world, meeting many like-minded bikers.

Peter spent his National Service in the Royal Navy on HMS Ark Royal and then joined the Fire Service. He served in various counties before being invalided out of the Fire Service after 25 years. Following this, he spent a further 25 years with the NHS as a Fire Prevention Officer and Lecturer. On his retirement and the death of his long-term partner Lesley Kennedy - she was also our dear friend - Peter moved out of London to Wicken in Cambridgeshire.

Peter's hospitality was generous and the Moles enjoyed many a happy hour in Mottingham including celebrating Capital's 30th Anniversary in 2011. Some Moles were privileged to be invited to Peter and Julia's wedding on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at Eltham Palace; a grand and memorable occasion. Despite the distance, Peter still kept in touch with the Moles and together with Julia, they invited Capital and friends to drop outs in the paddock they had at Wicken. Along with other Capital members, the couple toasted in New Year 2021 with us and also joined one of our Zoom calls in January.

In 2014, Peter and Julia invited a group to keep an old turntable ladder fire appliance in their paddock so that enthusiasts could work on its restoration. The 240FLM Preservation Group was started, with Peter as a founder member and its Chairman. Peter had driven this AEC Mercury Merryweather 100ft turntable ladder fire engine on the first day that it had come into service at the old New Cross fire station in South London in 1965. In 2018, when Peter and Julia moved house to Worcestershire, Romford fire station became the permanent home for '240 FLM'. She is now used for special events such as public open days and displays both at the station and around the country as well as helping to educate London Fire Brigade fire cadets.

Peter was also a Freemason with London Grand Master rank.

Peter requested family flowers only at his funeral but would like to invite donations to his charity - the 240FLM Preservation Group. A "GoFundMe" page for donations has been set up at <https://gofund.me/b6a3eb62>, or cheques made payable to the charity can be posted to Julia.

We send our sympathy and all our love to Julia and the family at this sad time.

Peter's funeral will take place on Monday 19th April at 2.30pm at Wyre Forest Crematorium, Minster Road, Stourport on Severn, Worcs. DY13 8DE (or DY13 8AS for sat-nav)

RIP Peter

*Obituary written by Madeline Temple who shares the same birthday as Peter.*

