

THE Son



Issue 1
Spring 2021

Brethren, welcome to our inaugural issue of “**The SON**” a newsletter for Widows Sons (and associates) by Widows Sons. In these strange times with the COVID restrictions, we thought it would be nice to have something to circulate to keep us in touch with each other with a means of sharing news and activities across the UK and beyond.

The plan is to issue **The SON** quarterly, and we invite you all to participate and provide articles for inclusion, the more articles we get, the more members will have to read and enjoy, so don't be shy in sending in your ideas.

We are most definitely living through strange times at the moment, and a lot of what we have taken for granted now seem just like memories. My hope is that when we come out of the other side of this, we will have a renewed appreciation for our Masonry, and our Widows Sons activities, but more especially a renewed appreciation for our friendship and brotherhood. So read and enjoy our first addition and please contribute to the ongoing success of the newsletter. Finally in addition to this newsletter we are encouraging all of our full members to join our central facebook page “**Widows Sons of Great Britain**” which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WSFFWS>



Onwards and Upwards

W. Bro Peter Younger
National Chairman

THE Son is edited by W. Bro Phil Meynell

Please send submissions (in plain text with attached pictures wherever possible) by email to: wsmbanews@gmail.com

Welcome to the first edition of **THE Son** – I have been interviewed at length and passed many tests to become the editor of this quarterly newsletter/magazine. Actually that's a complete lie I was volunteered by JP (aka Grumpy) East Midlands. This was based on my previous experience with club and lodge newsletters.

Remember this is your magazine for you so contribute and send in what you want – it will only be a success if we all join in.

Enjoy!!

Philip Meynell (aka Animal)

Caption competition

Please email your suggestions with your name and chapter to: wsmбанews@gmail.com



“Masons unmasked”

A set of questions to get to know our members.

Name: Peter Younger

Which WS chapter are you in: Northumbria & Durham

When did you join Masonry: I was initiated in November 1994

Out of all of your bikes, which has been your favourite: Two stand out, my first Triumph Bonneville T140V, and my first HD Heritage Softail.

What has been your most memorable moment in Freemasonry: The first time I went into the WM chair it was October 1998, I had over 150 Brethren at the meeting, my Father stood on the centre of the lodge and delivered the charge to the Master to me, it was word perfect and delivered with real passion, you could have heard a pin drop in the lodge room, it was a beautiful moment.

What has been your most memorable moment in the Widows Sons: That's a hard one. I think when we first formed the Presidents Governing Board, we had big ideas, and a vision, which has largely come to pass. Secondly following the completion of the Inside the Freemasons documentary, I was invited to a cocktail party at Grand Lodge. I got to stand with the rulers of the craft, and ask for their opinion of the Widows Sons, and the response was that we are part of the future of Freemasonry, and a fantastic organisation “wow!” Naturally the good friends I have made, and the Brotherhood I now experience tops all of that.

What is your favourite route for a ride out: I am lucky to live in the beautiful county of Northumberland, and we have an amazing coastline, which is my regular ride out.

How long have you been riding motorbikes: I got my first motorbike when I was 12, a 50cc field bike, which I swapped for an electric guitar, it went round in circles in my back garden, with occasional blasts across the farmers field adjacent to my house.

Pineapple on pizzas yes or no? That is most definitely a no!!

What is the best country you have visited and why: I was lucky to spend quite a bit of time in Tanzania, the game parks are amazing, which I visited regularly, but also got to climb Kilimanjaro, and an active volcano in the rift valley, and chill out on the beaches in Zanzibar, a beautiful country.

What is your favourite degree in craft masonry and why: Without doubt the first, I have been a Master in a lodge 13 times, and have initiated several candidates as a result. I always try my best to give the initiate the best experience possible. It is an honour to initiate someone into the craft, as if all goes well, you are changing their life forever. Its quite a responsibility.

What is your favourite higher order in Masonry: I really like the Rose Croix, it's a journey of discovery, and the final piece which is a form of communion, I think is very special.

What is your favourite type of music: I was brought up on rock music, traditional and Progressive, but also like blues, reggae and house music.

Apart from masonry and the WS what other past time do you enjoy: I enjoy photography, and I play drums and guitar. Music plays a big part in my life, both listening and going to see live Bands.

How do you relax after a rough day: I really enjoy cooking, and am pretty good at it, so put me in the kitchen, open a nice red, and wait for the results.

Favourite sweets: Haribo tangfastic, and sports mixtures.

Favourite drink: A good red, a nice G 'n T. I only recently got into real ales, some of which I really enjoy, others are like a blocked drain.

What's the one thing you wish you could do: “mmm” play the piano, or swim, I am a brick in water.

What's the one thing you wish you didn't have to do: Shave, its such a pain, and has to be done every day.

If you had one positive message, what would it be: There will always be rough times and challenges, but we always come out of the other side of it, never give up.



Please feel free to submit your answers to these same questions by email to

The SON editor: wsmbanews@gmail.com



HAMPSHIRE AND
ISLE OF WIGHT
AIR AMBULANCE



Charity Raffles in aid of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance



In conjunction with Widows Sons Southern Chapter we are hoping to help raise £20,000 for the HIOWAA. Draws will take place weekly on a Friday night for 3 weeks starting from 19th February until the 5th March.

There are several weekly prizes including a fantastic limited edition money cannot buy prize that every Mason will want to win. Join our Facebook page for more information.

Facebook: South East Hampshire Masons Festive Board

Tickets Cost £2.

Text. 07917816922 for more details

Email gr1927@live.com Or sehmfb@gmail.com

A worthy RE:ACTion

In mid-January, a fellow WS of Pilgrims Chapter (Devonshire Province) posted an article on Facebook from a charity called **RE:ACT**, asking for ex-military people to step up and volunteer for a specific task.

RE:ACT is a humanitarian charity that provides direct action in emergencies and crisis, serving the most vulnerable people in need by deploying highly trained **RE:ACT** Response Teams.

<https://www.re-act.org.uk/>

I took up the challenge and signed up as a volunteer.

The task was to provide Marshalls to meet, greet and safely manage people arriving and leaving the mass vaccination centre, which was being set up at the Royal Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Three shifts were being set up from 0800-2000.

After completing an on-line training session, and negotiating the NHS competency matrix, I was approved as a Volunteer.

My first shift was 1600-2000 on Tuesday 26 January. I arrived at 1530 and received a brief from the team leader and then 'hung around' waiting for customers. It turned out to be a very quiet shift, so I was invited to have a jab. "Queue jumping" I hear you say, however, the NHS classed the Volunteers as 'key workers' in support of the vaccination role out.

I then completed 7 x 4hr shifts over the next 8 days assisting, on average, 500 people each day. I was booked in for the 1200-1600 shift each day and each shift was different, from the number of customers to the weather. I quite forgot what it was like to stand around in a car park for 4hrs in the cold and wet.

Customers were absolutely fantastic and very complementary to the Volunteers. "I wouldn't like your job" one man said (as if the 'volunteers' were being paid). The standard of driving was a cause for concern though. On more than one

occasion I thought I would be going home in an ambulance after a near miss. One customer hadn't been out of the house for 12 months and found his 'day out' a bit emotional.

The whole experience was very satisfying and therapeutic. It got me off the sofa, out of the house and moving around and I'm pretty sure I got my 10,000 steps each day. Just meeting people and enjoying the banter, swapping 'war stories', friendship, camaraderie and mutual support was exceptional and brought back many happy memories of serving and most essentially, got me out of the house.

Here's hoping that the Volunteers won't be needed much longer, for this particular emergency, however, I hope to do more training with **RE:ACT** to support future emergencies and fly the flag for the Widows Sons along the way.

Mike Parnell

(aka *Choo Choo*)

Secretary

WS MBA Wyvern Chapter



Official WS Regalia

Just a quick reminder that Iceni are the official suppliers of WSMBA Patches
We also do other bits and pieces (pictured)

Contact me by email for prices and stock:

martin.cargill@live.co.uk

Martin Cargill

(aka *Banger*)

WS MBA Iceni Chapter



“Masons unmasked”

A set of questions to get to know our members.

Name: Philip Meynell (Animal)

Which WS chapter are you in: Just Joined East Midlands.

When did you join Masonry: I was initiated into Harrington Lodge No. 5098 (Derbyshire) in 2006.

Out of all of your bikes, which has been your favourite: My BMW R1200RT and I've had two Honda Blackbirds so I must like those as well.

What has been your most memorable moment in Freemasonry: Founding a Motorcycle Lodge in Derbyshire. Going in the chair of Harrington and Derbyshire Motorcycle lodge No 9950. I have quite a few – being a lodge secretary as I am a bit of a control freak. I could go on!!!

What has been your most memorable moment in the Widows Sons: Not had one yet as only just joined – so Breakfast at Shardlow Marina with some WS.

What is your favourite route for a ride out: Derbyshire, Derbyshire, Derbyshire and some parts of Nottinghamshire.

How long have you been riding motorbikes: I passed my test in 1988 at the Nottinghamshire Police Driving School (they don't do them now). My first bike was a Suzuki GS 450.

Pineapple on pizzas yes or no? Oh god YES!

What is the best country you have visited and why: Canada – it is beautiful (and cheap as I have relatives there) – but also love Portugal and the Dominican Republic was superb (mainly because we had optics in our room). France is fantastic for riding motorbikes though!

What is your favourite degree in craft masonry and why: First Degree – always good to welcome someone new into Freemasonry.

What is your favourite type of music: So much – if I like it, I like it! Mainly 60's 70's and early 80's.

Apart from masonry and the WS what other past time do you enjoy: I enjoy Motorcycles, Music, started to play Drums again after a 30 year break. Also, my bar I have had built in the garden.

How do you relax after a rough day: If it's a warm day in the garden or behind my bar with music playing. Just chilling doing nothing! (there is a drink theme going on you may notice)

Favourite sweets: Sports mixtures, Midget Gems, Fruit Salad, anything like that. But Crisps and Nuts are my favourite – to have behind the bar – there is that drink theme again!

Favourite drink: Jack Daniels, Cheap Red wine, (Aldi) just discovered 19 Crimes wine which is great, Bottled lager if it is hot!! (the weather not the lager)

What's the one thing you wish you could do: Play guitar or Piano, Type faster.

What's the one thing you wish you didn't have to do: Shave my head and face (I would look like Mick Miller the comedian if I didn't)

If you had one positive message, what would it be: Laugh each day – it really is the best medicine.



Please feel free to submit your answers to these same questions by email to
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Southern Chapter – The Big Ride – The Inoculation

Between the 19th and 22nd August 2021, the Southern Chapter are attempting an 1800 motorbike ride in aid of **THE HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT AIR AMBULANCE**.

Leaving from Chandlers Ford with 21 riders including Michael Wilks PPGM of Hampshire Province and being sent off by the new Provincial Grand Master Jonathan Whittaker. We will be riding up to Membury Services where we will be met by Stone Cutters and Shires Chapters who will be joining us for the whole ride that is another 10 riders and escorted through to Wales by Wyvern Chapter. They will be stopping at Runcorn on the first night.

Leaving early on the Friday Morning riding over to Newcastle to the Angel of the North where we are meeting Northumberland Chapter (a great photo opportunity). Then we will be escorted up to Edinburgh where we will be met by our Scottish Brethren and then further up to Elgin, where we will stop for the second night.

On the Saturday Morning it will be the longest day riding from Elgin up to John O'Groats, and then back down to Kirkbride for our final night. Sunday Morning it is all downhill and back to Chandlers Ford.

The 2021 ride will be the third ride organised by the Chapter. The first year they completed an Iron Butt Challenge, 1000 miles in 22 hours and raising £8,000 for the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Year two was a more leisurely ride 1800 miles in three days and again in aid of the Air Ambulance, raising £10,000 and supported handsomely by East Midlands for Breakfast (very welcome after the first part of the ride in the torrential rain) also our Scottish brethren for their great hospitality, escorting us up to John O'Groats, organising a piper to send us off and back to the south.



I am pleased to say that except for Broke-it and Topsy we had an un-eventful trip. Broke-it ended up with no front calliper fixed by Brother Mark (Scotland), a piece of fence wire, cable ties and a lot of ingenuity. Brother Topsy had issues with his battery, but that was quickly sorted, and he got home safely.

This year we are privileged to be joined by the Shires and the Stonecutters Chapters for the whole ride, they will be raising monies for their own charities, and as a combined

contribution we are aiming to double our first two years donations giving us a total of £40,000 in the three years with the 2021 target of £20,000 This year's ride we are luckily to be joined by Wyvern, Northumberland, Scotland East, Scotland West, Scotland North and Midlands Chapters on the run so far with the Southern meeting us on the Sunday to escort the ride back home.

The age of the riders ranges from 28 to 80 and the bikes range from 3 years old to 20 years old, including Yamaha XJR 1300, BMWs, Triumph Tiger, M7, 2 Honda Gold-wings and 2 pan Europeans 1300 one with over 106,000 miles on the clock. The riders will be in the saddle for 10 - 12 hours a day and have spent a total of £1400 on accommodation and will use 1050 gallons of fuel or £1260.00 total.

W. Bro Trevor Hutcheson

(aka *Claret*)

Charity Captain

Southern Chapter



Change of Opinion...

Having been a motorcyclist for many many years and then becoming a Freemason back in 2006, I had not really heard of the WSMBA.

I knew it was connected to Freemasonry and at that time did not even know they were all Masons. Wrong!

Then I thought it was a Masonic Lodge. Wrong again!

And then it sort of left my thoughts for a while, was aware but did not really show any interest. Fast forward to 2016 I had this idea of a Motorcycle Lodge in Derbyshire. After many hours of research and contacting many Masons I became aware again of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association. (not a good experience from one but put that down as a one off).

Now some people who will remain nameless warned me off the WS. I then spoke to a friend of mine from another province which also had a Motorcycle Lodge and was told "embrace them". He told me about the commraderie the charity work and the support they give to lodges and their members.

This was in addition to their outstanding supporting of charities.

Based on his advice I did just that – I spoke to many WS and have not regretted it. We had 3 widows' sons as founding members of the Derbyshire Motorcycle Lodge all of whom took an office. Almoner, Chaplain and Steward.

Anyway the rest is history I've gone from not knowing to not interested to being interested and talking to them embracing them (some literally) to joining them!

Charity is at the heart of freemasonry and the Widows Sons epitomise this value!



W. Bro Philip Meynell

(aka *Animal*)

WM Derbyshire Motorcycle Lodge

WS MBA East Mids Chapter



West Mids Chapter Roundup

West Midlands Chapter is in very good standing, both financially and membership, we have 48 Fully Patched members and 32 Bad Pennies. Due to the Covid pandemic we have only been meeting on Zoom calls, which have been attended well, we still have business and banter mix. Hopefully soon we will ride again.

When I took over as President in June 2020 as you all know we were deep in the pandemic, so ride outs were impossible, most of our fund raising has been done in conjunction with Legge Lodge (Staffordshire Motorcycle Lodge) raffles, football cards and selling of items such as a West Midlands Jigsaw which went down very well, brethren & charity stewards thank you. We have still managed to donate over £500 to local charities, most funded by our own chapter funds, donations to Staffordshire & Worcestershire Province Festival funds, £1000 to Midland Freewheelers Blood bikes, this donation coming from our rally funds, and we still have funds in the rally account which will be distributed throughout this year.

As the National Memorial Arboretum is within our area & RTTW was cancelled, we as a chapter went to the Masonic Memorial Garden and laid a wreath on behalf of us all, we went without cuts and spaced ourselves 2 metres apart, however it was raining cats & dogs so we could have worn anything.

As our chapter grows and numbers increase, it has become more difficult to get everyone together, the geographical area covered becomes too great for everyone to come together. Therefore it is with great pleasure and in line with PGB plan to have a chapter in every province, members of Worcestershire Province have asked to start their own chapter, they have already got the go ahead from their PGM, they have more than enough members to install their officers, and they have my full backing to go ahead, we will be pursuing this with the PGB as soon as we can and asking for a vote to form a chapter and a new charter to be written.



Bro Ian Cole
(aka Coley)
President

West Midlands Chapter

South East Chapter Roundup

The chapter continues to grow in number despite the lock down restrictions.

We are using the down time to build up the numbers for Surrey and Sussex so they can apply to the PGB for a charter at the next National Rally, or an echarter until time or circumstances restore the genuine. The appointed VP's, Dean (Blackbeard) Johns is heading up Surrey and Karl (Black Rat) Hopper-Young Sussex. Both have already submitted their intention to their PGMs and are now working on the basic offices to run the chapter, being VP, secretary and treasurer. The rest will be down to their choice, although a road Marshall/Captain would be considered a way of focusing rides onto someone with experience to run them safely.

Old Bob is feeling the aches and pains of advancing age but is still upbeat as best he can be, although he readily admits his memory is no longer what it was, and his riding days are over. For those that do know him, he twice recovered the South East chapter when dark forces threatened its survival. Rallying the troops to carry on. Being chartered in 2008 we have always been a firm supporter of the WSMBA and like to think we have played our part in the journey so far. The South East hosted the first National Rally at the 6 Bells Inn, Chiddingly, and are looking forward to hosting the first Regional Rally in the future.



W. Bro Gregory Kirby
(aka Prepschool)
South East Chapter



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Eligibility criteria applies

Ridings Chapter Roundup

Despite following strict guidelines, the Ridings Chapter still managed to maintain regular rides and socials, allowing us to concentrate on candidate development.

This led to us patching in 5 new members last year!

We added some great new items to our merchandise range (embroidered necktubes or lodge gloves, anyone?), the proceeds of which, when added to money raised from sponsored rides enabled us to donate over £1600 to local charities.

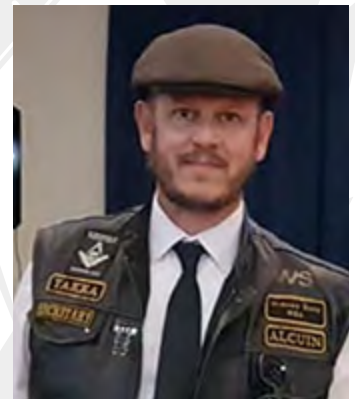
We started a weekly zoom meeting, great for keeping in touch with everyone but also a useful tool for bringing new candidates into the fold.

Meanwhile, we finally got around to designing a new chapter patch/logo which we officially adopted in November 2020.

Having found our Facebook page to be an excellent promotional tool (now with over 1800 followers) we decided to expand our online presence by updating our website and creating an Instagram account.

We have even started our own Ridings Chapter Podcast, a monthly show concentrating on motorcycles and masonry.

“**RIDECAST** - made by Widows Sons, for Widows Sons” - Go give it a listen!



W. Bro Matt Duffy
(aka Yakka)
President
Ridings Chapter



Wyvern Chapter Roundup

When Wyvern received their Charter in April 2020 we had 13 members, we are now 16 and have another 7 'in waiting' from right across our area. We also have another two who are not yet in the Craft but will join once we're able to meet again.

I'm particularly proud of the fact that the number of enquiries from Gloucestershire masons is growing nicely, so much so that we have recently had to appoint a Provincial Liaison Officer for Gloucestershire to continue that momentum. I already have an invitation from the PGM of Gloucester to meet face to face, once lockdown is over, as well as an invitation to display our bikes etc. at their Provincial event in the summer, if it still takes place this year.

The Chapter continues to offer support to the brethren of our area by doing essential shopping trips or delivering medicines. Somerset really picked up on this and have 'advertised' us in their e-Newsletter as well as on the Provincial website. We also have a number of members who have volunteered with the vaccine roll-out as well as members who are NHS Staff working hard to keep us all safe and well. I know this is quite common across all WS Chapters but felt it worthy of mention. Thank you to each and every one of them.

There's lots of planning for rides and events going on and the whole Chapter are looking forward to getting back in our saddles.

W. Bro Harry Blinston
(aka Riff)
President
Wyvern Chapter



Oil Leak Larry



Widows Sons Masonic bikers Ireland

2020 was a strange, troubling and hard time for everyone, but as a Chapter some good did come out of it and shine through the problems of the pandemic.

We also had Stephen Eamonn Collins doing the same and flying the flag for the Widows

Sons down South with Bravo Charlie Tango raising money to buy PPE and medical supplies to then deliver to those in need and meeting up with some other well know members of the community out helping as well in Dublin.



Thanks to the foresight of our member Michael Price the man behind the idea of the "Volunteer Bikers Group" saw not only 26 signed up Widows Sons Riders and a couple of members as part of the admin team, delivering prescriptions and medical supplies, but combined with help from the whole Northern Ireland biking community of over 200 bikers coming together to help out those in need. The group got recognition across the globe, shout outs from Johnny Rea and Foggy to name a few and even went on to win an award in the Irish Motorcycle Awards getting the "Services To Motorcycling", all whilst raising well over £2300 for the Northern Ireland Childrens Hospice. It was a busy and amazing experience for all of Irelands WSMBA members involved as well as all those in the community that bolstered the team.

There were many other members helping the community as well through various Lodge initiatives and it was refreshing to watch everyone pull together and volunteer when those in need required it. As Masons and as Widows Sons.

W. Bro Richard Webber
President
Widows Sons Ireland





Join Ridings Chapter members Yakka, Gremlin and Pigpen as they talk about their two favourite subjects - Motorcycles and Masonry!!

Don't know what a podcast is? Imagine a radio show with no music, just chat about the things you love!

You can listen whenever the mood takes you, in your car, on a walk, or sat at home with a brew – start an episode of Ridecast to be transported into the world of the Widows Sons!

All smart phones have a podcast app – start yours up and use the search bar to look up Ridecast. Select an episode and enjoy!

And don't forget to hit "Subscribe"!

Alternatively, go to <https://anchor.fm/yakka-ridings5> to listen.

New episodes every month!!

Beda Chapter Roundup

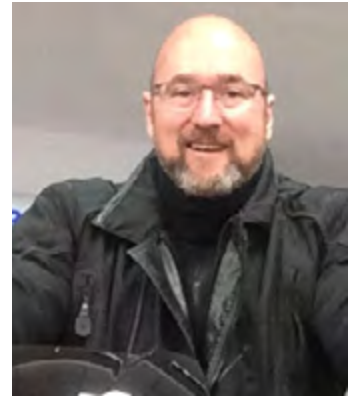
Highlights for 2020 include the Virtual Patching of four Full WS members as well as the following:-



July: Beda met up with East & West Mids for a joint visit to the wall painted in honour of Capt. Sir Tom followed by a picnic at Bosworth. A great day enjoyed by all.

September: A socially distanced Bake Off followed a restriction abiding ride out.

Two separate rides were lead around the Bedfordshire Countryside and met for a socially distanced bake off in the centre of the county. Funds were raised for a local church and prizes for best adult and best child cake were handed out. The 'Bake Off' was managed and organised by our associate members (Beda Clangers) and will be repeated when restrictions are lifted.



Charity:

Even with the restrictions in place which obviously restricted our activities Beda Chapter raised and distributed over £5100 throughout 2020.

Beda continued to support Kids in Action www.kidsinaction.org.uk and in October we presented a sensory bike which had been sourced and built by our VP Colin Batchelor and Almoner Connor Gosling.



Beda's Crazylegs Draw is a monthly licensed lottery that continues to grow and pays out three prizes as well as contributing £120 monthly to our charity pot. It got its name from Bro John Hawkins who suggested the initiative which will soon enter its 3rd year.

The year ended with a Festive Zoom with carols including the 12 days of Christmas (This was recorded but is harmful to your ears!!).



In Summary, Beda Chapter continues to grow. We regularly meet via Zoom and continue to develop new fundraising and social ideas such as Virtual Animal Encounters and quizzes. We are building a social and riding schedule in anticipation of a relaxation of restrictions and can't wait to get going.



W. Bro Chris Handley
(aka *Fugazi*)
President
Beda Chapter

Lincs Imps Chapter Roundup

Lincs Imps has now been chartered for 18 months and have just had our second agm. The president reported that we now have 13 patched members and 6 cornerstones. 2 of the cornerstones are new members awaiting initiation into masonry, we are donating 2 £500 cheques to local charities and £100 raised from Xmas tree collection to Lives.

In July 20 we held a weekend camping and fishing get together which was well supported by all members and some outsiders. We are hoping to arrange similar this year with a fishing match open to other chapters. So eyes peeled for any announcement.

Lincs imp's did manage 7 rideouts which were all well supported and incursions made into neighbouring chapters territories. Scalps were taken and are now hanging around Oham lakes ready for any who would care to retrieve.

Lincs imp's have now achieved a good foundation on which to move the chapter forward, The banter between members can sometimes be a wonder to behold and in good masonic standing, politics is left outside the door where it belongs.

Being a young chapter in both charter and average age, I'm sure our members will shine in the w's for many, many years.

Hoping to show this at the next national rally. When hopefully more than the imp's turn up for the tug of war.



W. Bro Steve Shucksmith
(aka *Arm Chair*)
President
Lincs Imps Chapter

Cheshire Chapter Roundup

I am happy to report that all our Patched members have renewed their membership of the Chapter for this coming year.

During the lockdown period we were unable to do a great deal of motorcycling, however, as a Chapter and as Freemasons we still managed to honour our commitment to a variety of charities, especially those who have suffered due to the Covid pandemic.

During our short period of existence, and as a direct result of the CWSMBA we have increased our membership by encouraging 5 gentlemen to be initiated into Freemasonry, we have witnessed a further 6 lapsed/unattached brethren re-join a craft lodge, who have all been Patched into the Chapter. With a further 5 gentlemen to initiate into freemasonry and 3 more lapsed masons to re-join a craft lodge once the pandemic is over and we are allowed to return to our Lodge meetings.

We currently have 3 members of the CWSMBA who are volunteer Blood Bikers, and as a Chapter we will be looking at presenting a substantial cheque to the Cheshire Blood Bikes Charity, at our AGM in April 2021, thus bringing our Chapter charitable donations in our first three years to £9,838 to 21 different worthy organisations, something that we as a Chapter and as Freemasons are very proud of.



W. Bro Harry Shone
(aka *Big H*)
President
Cheshire Chapter

East Mids Chapter Roundup

Lockdown has made it difficult for all the Chapters to meet, but we've managed to distribute our allocation of the funds raised at our conjoint Rally with West Midlands.

We identified a number of good causes, that we wanted to help. We've tendered to go for local charities that help the homeless, children and the disadvantaged.

Before the Covid19 lock down some members visited the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Stamford Hall, near East Leake, Nottinghamshire. This new facility provides medical care to service personnel that have brain injuries and have lost limbs. The £300 million facility was recently opened by the Prince of Wales. A cheque for £1000 was presented to the DMRC Benevolent Fund.

Whilst the public purse provides for most of the conventional therapies and medical treatments, DMRC Stamford Hall relies on The DMRC Benevolent Fund to support holistic, occupational and social integration initiatives and activities that contribute to the patients' successful outcomes.

Apparently, the Benevolent Fund struggles to attract donations as there is a misconception that the MOD provide the required cash. It was therefore great to help them with their cause, and the Widows Sons look forward to joining them on some of their future events.

Brian 'George' Dent & Nicola Norville provided the five members of the Widows Sons with a guided tour of the Centre and explained that they are employed full time at the DMRC and work on a voluntary basis for the Benevolent Fund in their spare time.

Other donations were:

Canaan Trust - £500 (Homeless)

Doorways Derby - £1000 (Homeless)

Cope Children's Trust - £500 (Children)

Peter Le Marchant Trust - £500 (Disabled, narrowboat holidays and day trips)

Wishes 4 Kids - £500 (Children)

Go Make a Difference - £500 (Children)

Send a Child to Hucklow - £700 (Children)

Once I was a Soldier - £500 (Vetrans)

These donations will be a great help in these troubled times when charities are experiencing a downturn in funding. Fantastic that we can help local charities but of course this was a national effort from the WSMBA.

During some of the Covid lockdown relaxation time we managed a Ride out with BEDA to Captain Tom's mural in Nuneaton followed by a picnic at Bosworth Battlefield. A successful ride out to Carsington Water, despite Gunni's satnav issues.

We also managed to sneak in our first Presidents weekend just before the second lockdown. Held at the Greyhound public house in Warslow, Derbyshire run by a fellow mason. Which was a great success, we charmed the locals and visitors. One was so impressed by what we do that he is on his way to becoming a mason. During lockdown we have continued to grow the Chapter. We now have 30 full members, 6 Bad Pennies in waiting to become masons and 10 Bad Pennies. We also changed our meeting venue as we just outgrew the existing one.

To keep in touch we've held Zoom quiz nights, bingo and chats, and to keep our charity funds coming in we have set up a direct debit scheme called the Half Pint Fund, where members commit to donating £2 per month.

Like everyone we can't wait for the end of lockdown so we can gather and ride again and of course continue our charitable work, hopefully this will coincide with the return of better weather.



W. Bro John Perridge
(aka *Grumpy*)
President
East Midlands Chapter

East Kent Chapter Roundup

What a year 2020 turned out to be; No Natter Nights, no National Rally – what was a Widows Sons to do?

Well.... Our VP quickly arranged some virtual Natter nights, and coffee mornings that proved to be very effective; keeping the membership actively involved, regularly speaking to each other, and feeling included – isolation can be a terrible thing!

These meetings continue and their success is down to the VP instigating this – probably helped that he was furloughed and feeling lonely...

One of our members, Frog, makes and plays the Ukulele. He decided to make one of his truly special creations and auction it off to raise funds for one of our designated charities; Rising Sun. Frog duly did this and in so doing raised a staggering £520 pounds – outstanding!

One other member, Mayday decided to grow his hair; he had previously shaved his head for many years! He raised a whopping £500 pounds for another of our selected charities; Strode Park.

Toy Run, we raised over £500 online this year, which was split equally between both charities, Strode Park & Rising Sun. Disappointing that we could not ride as we normally do!

We were all very disappointed with the National Rally being cancelled so a few of us decided to venture North any way. There were 14 members in total who travelled: 2 rides organised. One taking 3 days the other 2 days. On the way up we met with 5 different chapters... awesome! The weather was brilliant, in stark contrast to the year before I hasten to add! We were very lucky to be able to travel and enjoy what turned out to be a great few days away....

In August, EKWS decided to ride down to Sammy Millers (Motorcycle Museum) Hampshire... We had 22 members from East Kent, a total of 4 chapters joined in, at one point we had nearly 50 bikes in the convoy. Great biking skills and road drills shown by all attending!

Finger crossed for a truly awesome 2021!



Bro Jason Davis-Baker
(aka *Bluebell*)
Secretary
East Kent Chapter



**NO ROAD IS TOO LONG IF YOU
HAVE GOOD COMPANY....**

A new dawn in Portugal

Brethren a new dawn is emerging on the WSMBA as we set out to offer charters to our European brethren in Holland, Portugal and Gibraltar. One country stands out; Portugal. The Anglo-Portuguese Treaty of 1373 between King Edward III of England and King Ferdinand and Queen Eleanor of Portugal is the oldest in the world. It established a treaty of “perpetual friendships, unions and alliances” between the two seafaring nations.

Now roll the clock forward to today to “Two Motorcycling Nations”. Its masonry has roots in Gibraltar. Both countries are districts under UGLE so the connection to craft masonry is already established. The WSMBA membership is currently over 1000. The Portuguese motorcycle masons club Moto Maco has 117. So a lot of potential members there!

The secretary, Alexandre Cebrian Valente, and the VP, Jose Santos, of Moto Maco (Portuguese Motorcycling Masons), have joined the South

“By car you can enjoy the scenery, by motorcycle you are part of it.”



East Chapter as a precursor to establishing the Chapter for Portugal. This will be an easy one to Charter as the Moto Maco has been run along similar lines to the WSMBA for over five years and is made up of members throughout the land that practice regular masonry.

During the current pandemic they have been volunteering to deliver supplies to the needy. They have also donated two paramedic motorcycles and the Grand Master is very appreciative of the club's efforts, so they are sure he will

back their application to join the growing family of the WSMBA. They have regular social events and are very keen to extend a warm welcome to the Widows Sons when touring Portugal.

Portugal is already a popular touring destination for motorcyclists due to its climate, culture and friendly people, and the Faro Rally is legendary. With us just about to charter Portugal there will be an even warmer welcome as both countries will share the WSMBA patch.



W. Bro Gregory Kirby
(aka *Prepschool*)
South East Chapter



Jose Santos and Alexandre Cebrian Valente (in full leathers)

Masonic Bikers Get Matty to the Hard Rock Cafe

In July 2020 the East Midlands Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association became aware of the plight of a 15 year old lad living in Mountsorrel in Leicestershire. Tragically Matty is suffering from terminal brain cancer. Enquiries were made to Matty's mum, Alison Hatton, to see if there was anything we could do for him. We already knew he loved motorbikes, but we found out he has been longing to visit the Hard Rock Café in London. We definitely thought we could help with that. It was decided that between the members of the Chapter we could raise about £400. That would cover fuel and the meal at the Café. However, the power of social media took over and donations came pouring in. From individual Masons, Lodges, Mark Masons and other Widows Sons Chapters. We were on, we were going to get Matty to the Hard Rock Café as we had raised over £2000.00.



W Bro John Perridge, (East Midlands President) got to work. The date was set for 15th August. Executive suites were booked at the 5 star Royal Horseguards Hotel. Tables at the Hard Rock Café were booked. Trips on the London Eye, an open top bus tour and Thames cruise were donated. It was set to be a day to make memories.

When the day arrived, eight members of East Midlands Chapter met the family for a motorbike escort down the M1 to London Gateway Services, where another 40 or so bikes from Icenis Chapter (London) & Shires Chapter (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Middlesex) joined us for an escort to central London. The rain that had threatened to dampen our spirits had stopped and the ride into the 'Smoke' was a pleasant one.



With the Hatton family checked in to the hotel they were put in a taxi to the Hard Rock Café. Icenis and Shires headed off home as social distance rules wouldn't have got them all in the Café. East Mid.s rode over to the Café to join the Hattons. We settled in and Matty got his Legendary Hard Rock burger after which we were treated to a tour of the Vaults where some exclusive rock memorabilia from artists such as the Beatles, Madonna, Black Sabbath and Jimi Hendrix is stored. It was then time to visit the Rock Shop to get Matty and the family some merchandise.

Although Matty was having a fantastic day, his condition means that he quickly tires, and he was starting to flag. So, it was time for us to let the Hattons get back to the hotel to recharge so they could do a little more sight seeing in the evening and the next day. We could see from the smiles on their faces that the Hattons had had the most amazing day and made some unforgettable memories.



They are memories that they will have forever, as the day was recorded and edited by one of our members who is a bit of a whiz at this kind of stuff.

On their return Alison thanked us for making the weekend so special, but we must thank the Hattons for putting their trust in a bunch of people that they did not know and letting us share those memories with them.

W. Bro Richard Wheelhouse
(aka *Tricky*)
Vice President
East Midlands Chapter

Freemasonry in Gibraltar

Freemasonry was first established in Gibraltar possibly as early as 1726 when a number of military Brethren congregated to form the first Masonic Lodge in the Garrison. The earliest recorded evidence of their Masonic activities can be traced to the Grand Lodge Minutes for the 10th May 1727 which records:

'His Grace the Duke of Richmond proposed health and success to our brethren of the lodge of Gibraltar, which was drank accordingly.' This Lodge became known as the Lodge of St. John of Jerusalem No.51 became the first known lodge to have worked outside the British Isles.



In 1732, Captain James Cummerford became the first Provincial Grand Master and in 1752 Colonel J.G Montresor, himself a founder member of the Lodge of St. John of Jerusalem No. 51 was appointed Provincial Grand Master in 1752 with a patent which included a provision for the establishment of a Provincial Grand Lodge in Gibraltar. Montresor left Gibraltar a few years later and for a number of years the office remained vacant, however, in 1761 Lieutenant General Edward Cornwallis arrived as Governor assuming the office of Provincial Grand Master. A second Governor would also serve as Provincial Grand Master – HRH the Duke of Kent. He would hold the distinction of holding the Office of Provincial Grand Master for Gibraltar as well as Grand Master of the Antients until the amalgamation of the two Grand Lodges in 1813.

After the Great Siege, Gibraltar's military presence naturally began to recede but its strategic importance as a naval base of

operations in the Mediterranean became evident. In 1789, Calpean Lodge with ties to the Royal Navy was founded. A number of its members would later serve with Nelson's fleet, including at Trafalgar. Friendship Lodge, founded in 1791, included a motley crew of privateers, merchants, Portuguese marines and Naval Officers and even French Royalists opposed to Napoleon. A fascinating aspect of this Lodge being that they were all Catholics in a staunchly Protestant military Garrison.

Following the amalgamation of the two Grand Lodges in England, the new policies of the United Grand Lodge of England regarding traveling lodges and the demands of the new British military hierarchy forced many military lodges to return their charters.

Naturally, the large number of military personnel stationed in the colony and the new resurgence of interest in Freemasonry necessitated the founding of new permanent English, Irish and Scottish Lodges in Gibraltar to accommodate large numbers of civilian as well as military Freemasons. During the 19th Century a number of new Lodges were founded.

In 1876, the District Grand Lodge of Scotland was founded with Bro. Thomas Haynes elected as its first District Grand Master.

The construction of the Naval Dockyard towards the end of the century brought a substantial number of Military personnel back to the Rock. Between 1901 and the end of WWI a number of Lodges with a distinct military character were founded. After WWII, the military presence in Gibraltar declined gradually with many of the hitherto military Lodges incorporating locals to replace military personnel who had left. Despite this decline, a few new Lodges were founded towards the end of the 20th Century.

Today, Gibraltar remains a hub of vibrant Masonic activity with Lodges working under the three Constitutions as well as a number of Chapters, Mark Lodges and other side degrees all meeting at the Gibraltar Masonic Institute, 47A Prince Edward's Road

Keith Sheriff

Next issue

The next issue of **THE Son** will be published on 1st June 2021

THE Son will be published on the 1st of March, June, September and December. With a cut off two weeks before each issue.

Please send your submissions, articles, stories, images, events and Chapter News (plain text with separate images preferred) for the next issue to the Editor by email to: wsmбанews@gmail.com before **Tuesday 18th May**

Please all be safe, ride safe and keep well. Summer is coming and with it hopefully a lifting of restrictions.



Scan me on your Phone



Don't forget the Widows Sons of Great Britain private Facebook page is open to all patched members and can be reached at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WSFFWS>



**THE
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