

THE SON



Issue 5
Spring 2022



Welcome to the first edition of the **"The SON"** for 2022. With four splendid issues behind us and plenty of jostling for space, the ezine has proved to be a success and the editorial team have certainly done us all proud to maintain a high standard for each issue. Its continued success does rely on regular contributions so please make an effort to submit something to each issue

by the deadline with photos separate from the copy. If you are too busy, consider delegating in order to spread the effort.

At the time of writing I am preparing the Agenda for the AGM in Derby. As Acting Secretary, since we had to accept Shotgun's reluctant resignation to be a carer, the role has certainly opened my eyes to the demands it makes on one's time to run an Association with around 1000 brethren within 31 Chapters aligned by Association to UGLE & District & Chapters Overseas.

My first hat, since Elected Vice Chair in 2017 at Mold Rugby Club, as Gary Murton wanted to stand down due to pressure of work, was initially an easy ride with Peter taking on the day to day management, but as his thoughts turned to stepping down, he allowed me the opportunity to take a closer look. The two roles have proved time and energy consuming, but the overall experience of working with the members that hold the Association's core values to heart, make it all worthwhile.

What is very clear from my experiences, and looking through the archives on the President's Facebook Page, we do have a sound future, and our contribution to Freemasonry and its charitable pursuits are now considerable. So where do we go from here?

As an organisation growing consistently it also demands we review what we have in place in order to face the challenges that were never envisaged back in 2004 when our first Constitution was adopted. The Constitution review team will be reinvigorated to cover the gaps. Model bylaws created to help new Chapters. Create supporting initiatives to complete the mission "one Chapter per province" for those still to come on board. And of course listening to the members to make sure everyone can connect with our aims and ambitions.

Having recently witnessed the collective power to raise funds in a short space of time for a brother in need and recalling our collective effort to support the Lifelites tour around the country back in 2019 am keen to see if we can rise to the challenge to become a Platinum Partner of this very worthy cause.

Clubbing together to make a commitment to Lifelites over four years of £5,000 each year would make a substantial difference to the life-limited and disabled children that Lifelites support. If every one of the Widows Sons chapters could raise just £162 each year, then we would be able to hit this target. The cost of a pint per year for each member for four years would hit the target of £20,000.

A commitment to raise £5,000 each year for Lifelites over the next four years, would enable them to donate an entire batch of equipment to support 200+ life-limited and disabled children using one hospice service. This equipment would assist life-limited children to tell their mum that they love her, perhaps for the first time, to paint, even if they can only move their eyes, and to walk along a virtual beach, even if they are confined to a wheelchair. What say you all, a price of a pint, collectively £20,000? I firmly believe we can do it.

We are now a formidable Association. We can mobilise ourselves at very short notice to support each other's Chapters, support our communities, raise considerable funds for Charity and all the time making it fun. It has to be fun and it must always be fun. Life is too short and we have lost riding buddies and will continue to do so. Therefore make the memories whilst we can and remember we are Freemasons first and have a duty to behave as such.

Finally, we must never lose sight that it is our Freemasonry that brings us together to pursue another passion, our motorcycles. As for the outgoing Chairman, W. Bro. Peter Younger will be a tough act to follow. Over his tenure he has steered us onwards and upwards, shown tremendous commitment to the Association's future and promoted us at every opportunity with our Masonic Rulers. If I may bastardise a quote from Isaac Newton, I will see further because I will stand on the shoulder of giants. Peter is that giant that has given me the altitude to take the Association further with you all along for the Ride.

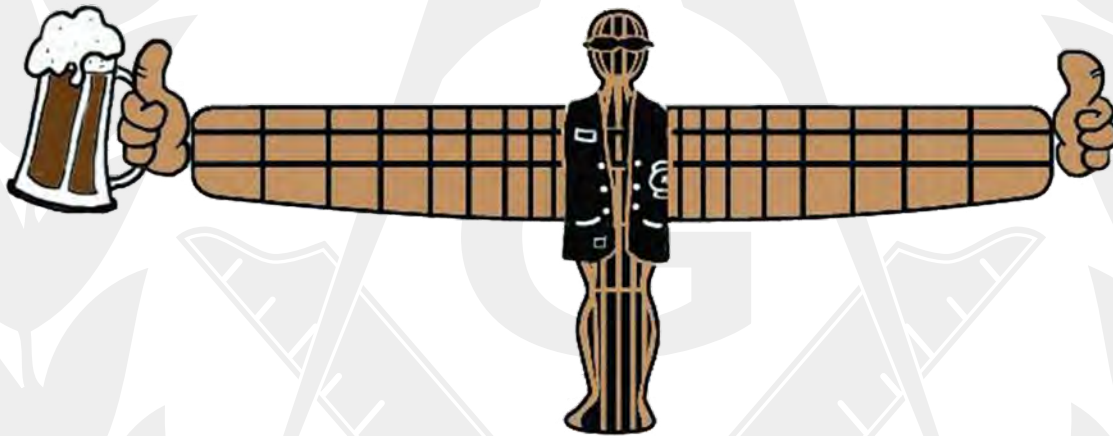
W. Bro Gregory Kirby
National Chairman

Widows Sons MBA National Rally 2022

“The Northern Bash”

**A weekend of Beer - Bikes - Top Class Bands
and Brotherhood**

Open to all WSMBA members, associates and Invited/approved guests
Thursday 28th July to Sunday 31st July 2022
Tickets: £35 per person - Under 16's F.O.C



Ticket enquiries to wsrally2022@gmail.com
Bishop Auckland Rugby Club,
Bridge Road, Bishop Auckland DL14 7PA



Hosted by:

WS Northumbria, WS Durham, WS Cumbria

Camping on site • campervans • Shower blocks available • No pets allowed



THE Son is edited by W. Bro Phil Meynell

Please send submissions as Word files with attached pictures by email to: wsmbanews@gmail.com

Philip Meynell (aka Animal)

“Masons unmasked”

A set of questions to get to know our members.

Name: Rich Pinner (PINN)

Which WS chapter are you in: West Midlands

When did you join Masonry: I was initiated into University of Birmingham Lodge no. 5628 (Warwickshire) on 19th November 2016

Out of all of your bikes, which has been your favourite:
Bonneville 750 (stolen in 1986)

What has been your most memorable moment in Freemasonry:
My initiation, meeting the West Midlands widow's son's, delivering a lecture in front of a full lodge (including our PGM) and not completely messing it up, finding out just recently in the last few weeks that my childhood friend was initiated around the same time as me and we only just found out.

What has been your most memorable moment in the Widows Sons: My first meeting with the guys & the then president (Clivey). The first ride out. Dancing with the Scots at West Midlands gathering. All the other rides. Being asked to be VP by our current president (Coley/Pothole)

How long have you been riding motorbikes: Off road (of course) since 13 yo. I didn't pass my test till 1994 age 26. I have had bikes ever since.

What is your favourite route for a ride out: any!

Pineapple on pizzas yes or no? Secretly yes, but never in Italy & never in front of any of my Italian friends! – but I draw the line at anchovies.

What is the best country you have visited and why: Ireland and India for the same reason, the kindness of strangers and magnificent landscapes. But I could say the same about a lot of places tbh.

What is your favourite degree in craft masonry and why: All of them because they are all deep, poignant and meaningful.

What is your favourite type of music: I like most music and worked as a “roadie” for many years with many bands, favourite genres I guess are rock, reggae, ska, even jazz, favourite song ever is Louis Armstrong wonderful world, closely followed by motorheads overkill. Even some classical depending on the mood.

Apart from masonry and the WS what other past time do you enjoy: learning languages. Tinkering with bikes, riding bikes, riding Horses, walking with dogs, travelling to different places different cultures, music, FOOD!! I love food. I love my job teaching construction students and plant operators and I love my role in general Lodge of Instruction teaching young and new masons .. and meeting really cool people who give me really cool vibes.

Favourite sweets: Daaark chocolate .

Favourite drink: Hoegarden, Milk & Alcohol...

What's the one thing you wish you could do: a wheelie!! And fly a helicopter

If you had one positive message, what would it be: Be strong and be kind...



Please feel free to submit your answers to these same questions by email to
The SON editor: wsmbanews@gmail.com



West Mids Chapter Roundup

West Midlands chapter is continuing to grow as is our first daughter chapter Worcestershire. At the rate we are growing we will have a chapter for each province in no time and eventually cease to exist.

Lots been going on, despite the Rona, we managed to find and fund worthy causes and are continuing to for the current year (as are you all of course) last year Andy and Jon found a couple of great causes for injured military personnel and broken families in dire need. Ian our Pres was on the road all over the UK for most of the year visiting and dropping off cheque to various worthy persons. This year two of our brothers (who are also brothers) Ian and Tony are doing a 1400 mile trek round god's country in Scotland, one of Warwickshire's Assistant PGM is taking his first trip on a motorcycle since many many years visiting all the midland provinces in aid of 2023 festival.



Legge lodge which was saved from extinction by our Past Pres (Clivey) and other Widow's sons, has continued to grow from strength to strength as has Burslem HRA chapter another one of Clive's recovered units. Both have gone from having barely enough people to open to now not having enough seats for visitors! Well done Clive and everyone else involved.



Great to see the northerners have opened the first widow's sons lodge hoping to visit soon . Looking forward to the seeing what the rest of the year holds for us all . Peace, black side down.

WSFFWS. S&F Rich

Bro Rich Pinner
(aka Pinn)
Vice President
West Midlands Chapter

Anglia chapter and Norfolk chapter have a patching up Breakfast at Ashlar house.

The two chapters have close ties and go from strength to strength as new members keep appearing.



With 3 new members already this week we are hoping for at least 6 new members in each chapter yearly.

Here's to some great ride-outs in the coming months.



W. Bro Glen Oliver
(aka Oilly)
Anglia Chapter

Surrey Chapter Update

Hi all as it's been a reasonably quiet Winter, I will start with a bit of a catch up on stuff from last year that didn't get into the previous editions.

The Cops & Robbers Rally:

Sept 3rd-5th The Blue Knights (police & other blue light & support services) held an annual rally in Kent where some of us were lucky to be invited, a great weekend held at a military barracks/compound, the boys & girls in blue like a good party and 280 bikers & family were in attendance, great camaraderie, food, accommodation music and charitable giving, including a ride out around the Kent countryside to the Blue Knights club house, one for next year for sure. Pics are minimal to maintain privacy.



Twin Towers memorial:

Sept 11th Miyagi and Hagrid who trained to be a fireman joined with members of the Surrey Ford-bridge station Fire Brigade to commemorate the tragic event and remember the public and



service personnel whose lives were lost in and around the twin towers on that frightening day 20 years ago, it also helps to raise funds for the firefighter's charity UK and the tunnels and towers charity USA.

Members of the local fire station completed a 5mile Walk/jog in full BA kit (approximately 35 kg) and then a stair climb the equivalent of the full height of the twin towers, a Fantastic local event for very worthwhile charities.



Surrey Widows Sons Involvement came out of a growing mutual connection between Surrey WSMBA and Surrey Fire Brigade, where we look forward to developing this connection and supporting each other's events going forward.

Surbiton festival:

Sept 27th We have had nothing but positive support from the Surrey masonic exec team and we were asked if we would like to take part in an annual festival in Surbiton where one of Surrey's masonic centres is situated, Surrey masons' parade in regalia and as 2020 was a year to forget 2021 was a big affair with the streets lined with spectators, stalls & events set up in the park and a mass parade of various organisations, classic cars and 9 WS members on bikes in our cuts. We were applauded as we revved our way through the streets "note to self the rocket is not a slow speed bike"



I did however find secure parking whilst in attendance. We were also asked to do some photo shoots for the Surrey Risings masonic mag so we may have even got in the press!

Shooting Star:

Nov 27th We supported St Christopher shooting Star hospice Guildford in Easter and have again returned to offer them some festive cheer:

With the thermometer threatening to dip below

freezing and storm Arwen threatening to prevent our event we managed to start the morning with a hearty breakfast at Miyagi & Savages home, then loaded Chef's car with stacks of art supplies and gifts for both the residents and staff at the hospice. Our road captain "Vampire" led us there on a



bitterly cold ride from Chessington to Guildford in the freezing rain. My thanks to, Vampire, Savage, Hagrid, Stalledt, Miyagi, Chef & for braving the weather and supporting this worthy cause.

On arrival we were as always made extremely welcome and warmly greeted by happy and enthusiastic staff and residents, after a much needed warm cup of tea and cake "thank the chef not our chef, their chef" we were honoured to present them with a cheque for £1000.00 which we have collected for through the year, a big thank you for this needs to go to Miyagi who engaged with his local business contacts and raised the lion's share of our donation, we also donated a large

amount of art supplies, craft materials and stationary items along with over £100 + in Amazon gifts.

Making a total donation of £1350, which was so gratefully received by the marvellous team and residents at St Christopher's.

And finally, from 6021:

We had ourselves a Xmas meal on the 13th Dec and even got a new member signed up at the meal I think for a short year of existence the chapter is bedding in nicely so 6022 looks to be a year to grow. Onwards, and upwards said the Oak tree to the acorn sapling, keep safe and be nice.

So far in 6022:

The Noel Surrey Motorcycling lodge 2444:

Had a raising in January and a lot of the officers were unable to attend at the last minute due to COVID or the fact the APGM was on an official visit!

So, the Widows Sons came to the rescue as follows IPM a cornerstone replaced the WM, I did SW, Miyagi did JW, Tangent did JD, Zed did ADC, Vampire was SD, a good meeting held and not forgetting the thanks to the other WS visitors who made it that much more special, we had some real positive words of praise and support from the APGM who rides and wants the motorcycle lodge to grow. And it would be wrong of me not to mention at the festive board the broken column of £185 was handed to me to put to WS good causes which was an unexpected but welcome surprise.

Coffee:

On the 5th Feb Milo, Miyagi and myself decided we would surprise our West Kent brothers by dropping in to their planned Breakfast meet in Gravesend, so an early up and we did just that to lots of handshakes and smiles, once we were full we decided to ride from Gravesend to Bexhill Sussex to the Custom Café, more coffee, then onto Brighton along the coast to Worthing /Goring the Seafront café more coffee, then back to Surrey past Rykas café 220ish miles for coffee and I did it all without heated grips unlike two other riders - I miss heated grips....



W. Bro Dean Johns
(aka *Blackbeard*)
President
Surrey Chapter

Portuguese Chapter Roundup

Since 2013 José Santos (current President of the Portuguese Chapter from WSMBA) dreamt of enriching the Portuguese Masonry with this freemasons motorcycling association.

Together with Alexandre Cebrian Valente, in 2020 they have decided to go forward with the necessary international contacts in order to promote platform that was capable to make this dream a reality.

Through WSSE President, Mr. Gregory Kirby, Jose and Alexandre were both warmly accepted and received as the 1st effective Portuguese members at WSSE – England, by January 22nd 2021.



And here it started the history of the Portuguese Chapter of Widows Sons Masonic Bikers, with an immense dedication, mission spirit and unquestionable brotherhood.

By June 24th 2021 (date that celebrates the day of São João, in Portugal), the Portuguese Chapter was constituted with the distinguish recognition and seal of Mr. Robert S. Levitt, as Great Inspector of the U.G.L.E., for Portugal.

There have been already several encounters with the Gibraltar Chapter members, with whom it is kept the flame of complete brotherhood and complicity.

Bro's Alexandre Cebrian Valente with Mr. Darren Lagaea and Mr. Gregory Kirby.

17th to 19th 2021, the Portuguese Chapter has officially accomplished its 1st meeting in Tomar (Templar city in the center of Portugal), where we receive the honorable presence of Mr. Gregory Kirby to deliver the official patches and dedicate his time, as well as several brothers from Gibraltar, with friendship and affection towards the Portuguese Chapter Founders.

Other events have already taken place among members of the Chapter, as well as visits to Lodges and at this moment, the Portuguese Chapter is in the stage of defining the strategy for the next events, with the purpose of founds gathering to give back to the society and dignify





the name of the International Masonry, as well as create a Masonry awareness around the globe, in special in our so cherished two wheels world. Another of our intention is to welcome our foreign peers, bikers that wish to travel to and/ or through Portugal, by piloting them and giving them all the necessary support, logistic and operational.

And therefore, we invite all of you to visit us at:

SITE:

www.wsmba.pt

FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/WSMBAPT>

YOUTUBE:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7dqvQ4ACbrLlkAk7le-s7g>



RIDECAST

The monthly podcast
of the WSMBA.

Now available on YouTube - [Click here](#)

Chapter	Provinces covered	Website/email (clickable)
Anglia	Anglia, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk	
Beda	Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire	https://bedachapterwsmba.co.uk
Cheshire	Cheshire	http://www.cwsmba.org.uk/
Cornwall (St Piran)	Cornwall	info@cornwall.wsmba.uk https://cornwall.wsmba.uk/
Cumbria	Cumberland & Westmorland	
Durham	Durham	https://www.dmmwidowssons.org/
East Kent	East Kent	https://widows-sonseastkent.com/
East Midlands	Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Nottinghamshire	wsmba.eastmidlands@gmail.com
Guernsey	Guernsey & Alderney	Find us on Facebook (click here)
Iceni	Essex, Hertfordshire, Metropolitan	https://271499.8b.io/
Ireland	Northern Ireland and Eire	https://www.widowssonsireland.co.uk/
Lincs Imps	Lincolnshire	Find us on Facebook (click here)
Norfolk	Norfolk	http://www.widowssons-norfolk.co.uk/
North Wales	North Wales	https://widowssons.wales/
North West	East Lancashire, West Lancashire	http://northwestchapter.com/
Northumberland	Northumberland	http://www.wsmбан.com/
Parisi	Yorkshire, North & East Ridings	http://www.parisichapter.co.uk/
Pilgrims	Devon	ws.pilgrims.20@gmail.com
Ridings	Yorkshire, West Riding	https://www.ridings.wsmba.uk/
Scotland	Covering Scottish regions	https://widows-sons-scotland.com/
Shires	Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Middlesex, Oxfordshire	ws.mba.shires@gmail.com
South East	London	http://wsse.uk/
South Wales	Monmouthshire, South Wales	Find us on Facebook (click here)
Southern	Hampshire & Isle of Wight	http://www.wsmba-southern.co.uk/
Surrey	Surrey	secretary@surrey.wsmba.uk
Sussex	East & West Sussex	www.wsmbasussex.com
Stonecutters	Dorset, Wiltshire	https://www.stonecutterswsmba.org/
West Kent	West Kent	https://westkentwsmba.co.uk/
West Midlands	Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire	http://www.widowssons-wmids.co.uk/
Worcestershire	Worcestershire	https://www.worcs.wsmba.uk/
Wyvern	Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset	https://wyvern.wsmba.uk/

'We have a Brother called Matty'

Matty Hatton 22/10/2004 – 05/02/2022



Matty had a wish to see and hear a few Widows Sons on Motorcycles ride past his house and perhaps a cheeky "rev" as they went past. This happened and then some!! Widows Sons and other local bike clubs supporting paraded past his house revving to much delight from Matty and his lovely family their smiles are the greatest.

After saying he'd love a meal at the famous 'Hard Rock Café' Widows Sons helped this to happen as well ensuring Matty and his family enjoyed a weekend in London dining at the Hard Rock Café and a trip on the London Eye accompanied by a Widows Sons escort of Motorcycles.

Widows Sons East Midlands Chapter's little Brother Matty has taken his place in heaven with the Great Architect.

Matty Hatton was a great inspiration to all that knew him. He didn't want to own the world but he appreciated the love from it and he was modest to the extreme. He was the epitome of what a would-be Mason should be.





A nice Tea out? This was done in a special way. Matty was whisked off to what he thought was a nice tea. In fact, Widows Sons had arranged a Helicopter ride from East Midlands airfield over his house and then over his School where Widows Sons had spelt out Matty and the Square and Compass in motorcycles across his Schools playing field the Widows Sons and his fantastic School Teachers lined up below to wave and cheer Matty and his family as they flew over.

*We'd like the memory of Matty to be a happy one,
We'd like to leave a real glow of smiles now he is done,
We'd like to leave an echo of motorbikes softly down the ways,
Remembering happy times, laughing times and sunny days,
We'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before that sun,
Of happy loving memories that he has left now he is done.
God bless you Matty and keep you our special little Brother,*

*Brother Dennis Eldred Widows Sons EMC
(Ghostman)*

Widows Sons is a very special part of the Masonic world that makes Men better, upholds Fidelity, Charity and Brotherhood - it is not for their benefit, but for the benefit and love of all the people they interact with where possible and we are proud and pleased to be part of that.

East Kent Chapter Roundup

We have had a quiet couple of months since Christmas, hardly surprising given the 'less than perfect' weather conditions for us Southern boys - I think it fair to say we are definitely fair-weather riders!

Having said that we have attended some great Masonic meetings in Craft and our very own Mark lodge; The Hundred of Hoo where we had another two candidates advanced in February. That's a very credible four advancees since Christmas!



There are still two more to be advanced at our next meeting in June and more on the horizon for later on in the year!

There were 8 EKWS that attended a very special Craft meeting celebrating the Organist 50th year in freemasonry! A superb evening was had by all, wearing our cuts to the Festive Board we looked the part and invited questions from the many guests and brothers attending



the meeting. The Provisional Deputy Grand Master was in attendance presenting the certificate to The Organist; turns out he is a fellow biker and has a HD that believe it or not he has owned since the early 00's and it has only covered a few thousand miles!



Several of the members attended Frogs 'ladies' night; Frog an ex-London cabbie, and thrice through the chair, is renowned for his jokes and playing his Ukulele was last in the chair 20+ years ago. As you can see from the photo, he was on fine form joining the band on stage and playing a few tunes!

East Kent Widows Sons were presented with a cheque from the Lodge for £200 which will go towards the Easter Egg Run.

We have had 2 new members join the EKWS since the last edition of the son. Hopefully more to come as the spring, and warmer weather starts to come around, fingers crossed for decent weather in 2022!



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

South East Chapter Roundup



Not a lot has happened since the last report other than our usual thoughts turning to the Toy Runs and plans for next year. So, it was great that the Chapter was once again able to support a special needs school with

specialist toys and the opportunity to let the children climb over the festively decorated bikes. A big thanks to WBro Paul Walker and his wife, Chief "Elf" Caren for making it happen for SNAP, and the generosity of the members to support the funding. Not only were the children supported, WBro Paul also stood in as

Santa for the very youngest members, making it a special day indeed for children that need more attention due to their "needs".



Many ask after "Old Bob" and WBro David Oakenfold visits him at every opportunity and keeps us posted on his progress. He is well cared for and his surroundings comfortable. As the pandemic appears to be less aggressive, we all hope that restrictions will be regularly reviewed in order to allow more opportunity to travel, especially to visit our friends in France, Portugal and Gibraltar.

On a personal level I was able to visit the Portugal Chapter along with Darren from Gibraltar in September. Great hospitality and masonic friendship throughout the visit. I am hoping to visit again, this time by bike, and

will be looking for support to ride down as a chapter.

Region 8 members are keeping in regular contact and supporting each other as events present themselves. The more bikes the merrier being the motto. Finally, roll on 2022 and let's get back to normal!

Prepschool.



Ridings Chapter Update



The end of the year saw us patch Brasso into the Chapter at our Christmas party. This was held at the Midland Hotel in Bradford which has a masonic Temple in the basement.

A few of the Chapter managed to make the most of a mild new Years Day, and had a ride to Pateley Bridge for a coffee.

Friday February 11th was a special night for Bro Enzo as a large number of the members attended Harrogate and Claro Lodge 1001, to witness him being raised to the 3rd degree and patched into the Widows Sons during the festive board which was witnessed by over 60 brethren in total.



Bright and early the next morning a good number of the members arrived at Squires Bikes café in Sherburn for a hearty breakfast followed by the AGM.



Yakka, the outgoing president, handed over the reins to Gremlin, who has been the chapter secretary for the past three years. Other notable new appointments were Casio from Treasurer to Vice President, Pigpen to Secretary and Diesel to Treasurer.



WSMBA Gibraltar Chapter

Chapter Targets & Goals

In our first year as a WSMBA Chapter it was important for us to establish several achievable targets and goals within our community that would provide the basis of our future relationship. The targets considered were, introduction of WSMBA within the local Masonic fraternity, fund raising through members riding events whenever possible and establishing a primary charitable foundation to support going forward.



Supporting local Fraternity

The Gibraltar Masonic Institute is governed and represented by three constitutions (English, Scottish & Irish); it therefore makes it essential that the WSMBA Gibraltar Chapter potentially as members of any of these constitutions can support all three constitutions equally. It is for this reason that the Gibraltar Chapter members have been encouraged, whenever possible, to visit and support all constitutions equally, members have and will continue attending meetings in which brethren within the Gibraltar Chapter are members of.



At the installation meeting of St. John's Lodge 115 (EC), WSMBA members for the very first time attended a Masonic meeting in Gibraltar and were able to do so in full riding regalia. This was only possible after seeking permission from the District Grand Master R.W. District Grand Master (EC) who has always been very supportive of our association.

The support received from the brethren was simply overwhelming; they simply encouraged us to always wear our regalia in lodge meetings and hoped that we could help in supporting the Freemasonry fraternity in Gibraltar.

First associated member to become a full Master Mason

On Monday 20th September 2021, one of the WSMBA Gibraltar Chapter Cornerstone's was made a full member after receiving his third or sublime degree of a Master Mason. Brother Ryan Castle a member of Lodge St Thomas no 576 (SC).



It was a very special evening as this third degree had been postponed for at least a year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

A very good evening represented by many masonic brethren of three constitutions (English, Irish and Scottish) present in Gibraltar, none but not least, an excellent attendance of the WSMBA Gibraltar Chapter members

A total of 7 WSGC members, 4 visiting plus 3 lodge members were able to attend this

meeting but, whilst we would have hoped to have more members, we still faced restrictions (COVID-19) and the decision of the Scottish District to restrict lodge attendance numbers.

We were attending this lodge for the very first time we simply didn't know what to expect. Even with the support of the DGM we still needed to ensure we were welcomed openly by all

freemasons ensuring we didn't make the feel uncomfortable by wearing our riding regalia. Worshipful Brother Louis Michael Moss, RWM of Lodge St Thomas no 576 (SC) made sure that we felt welcome at the beginning of the meeting and presented WBro. Tony Morillo WSMBA Treasurer with a donation of £100.00 for our future charities.

First affiliated member to join Masonry

Bro. Caine Federico joined WSMBA Gibraltar Chapter as a Cornerstone member. Bro. Caine was initially supposed to join Calpe Lodge (325 IC) on 11th December 2021, unfortunately due to the high numbers of Covid cases within the local community the meeting was cancelled delaying his initiation to 11th February 2022.



Once again, this meeting was well attended by our membership who have been very supportive throughout the year.

Since our charter on 23rd April 2021, Widows Son Gibraltar Chapter have increased its membership by increasing both its full and affiliated numbers whilst continuing to promote directly or indirectly within the membership or the Fraternity.

Fund raising & Charity

On the 5th December 2021 our Chapter we able to support by donating towards the arrangements made by the EV Foundation first ever Children's (Kiddies) Christmas Party at the Fire house cafeteria, which catered for the arrangements for a total of 40 kids.

The event was very important one, on this occasion it wasn't a party for families in need. The EV Foundation ensured that this party integrated all children, not just for those they help weekly ensuring no group labelling or division within the community. The children were each given their own present, advent calendar, sweets, Christmas crackers and were highly entertained throughout the day.

WSMBA Gibraltar are extremely supportive of this Foundation and the work they carry out daily within the local community. Our Chapter can only provide a very small part of what they need economically however, anything and everything helps.

Lifelites and The Widows Sons

Lifelites is the only charity working with every children's hospice service across the British Isles to enrich the lives of children and young people with life-limiting illnesses and disabilities through donating the latest assistive and inclusive technology.



Giving kids with limited life unlimited possibilities

Thanks to support from the Widows Sons over the past few years, Lifelites has been able to continue donating magical technology to life-limited and disabled children that allows them to play, be creative and communicate throughout the pandemic. Covid-19 created added isolation for these children and their families but Lifelites technology has allowed them to continue to play and enjoy time with their friends and family.



One piece of technology that helped with this is the Lifelites donated Tilt and Touch table. One of the newest pieces of technology to be donated by Lifelites over the last year, the table is a large touchscreen that as the name implies can tilt, move up and down and be easily moved as it is on wheels. Many of the children who use Lifelites donated assistive technology spend a lot of time in bed or restricted to their wheelchairs. The Tilt and Touch Table enables every child to take part in fun activities, or help with their education through accessible learning games. No matter if the child sits on the floor, in a wheelchair, or lays in bed,

the Tilt and Touch Table enables life-limited and disabled children to play with their brothers and sisters, make new friends, paint, and control something for themselves, thanks to this amazing accessible technology.

“The Tilt and Touch Table is amazing! It can be used with our children, siblings and families! This gives families an opportunity to do fun things together which sometimes isn't possible without us! The way the table tilts is brilliant as a lot of children can only see on certain angles etc so having the tilt is brilliant.” – Children's hospice staff

Since donations of the Tilt and Touch table began last year it has quickly become a favourite amongst children's hospice staff and the children they care for such as Billie-Marie who you can see is able to enjoy it fully while in her wheelchair and create as much art as she wants.

Lifelites empowers 10,000 life-limited and disabled children and young people using hospice services by providing them with opportunities to benefit from the power of assistive and inclusive technologies to learn, to be creative, to communicate and to take control. There is a Lifelites project in every baby and children's hospice across the British Isles. The hospices do not pay a penny towards their Lifelites project and all of Lifelites' work is funded by donations: the equipment, ongoing technical support and training at each hospice costs around £50,000 over four years.



www.lifelites.org

Charity Number: 1165791

Sussex Chapter Update

The 15th July 2021 the date The Sussex Chapter of Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association eventually came into being but the process started many months before. Earlier in the year the South East Chapter started the processes to enable the PGB to vote for granting charters for Gibraltar, Portugal and Sussex taking us to 29 WSMBA Chapters associated to UGLE and its Districts Overseas.

It was important to us to seek and obtain the blessing and support of the PGM of Sussex before we embarked on our formation if we were to become a recognised masonic organisation with the Province.

The Sussex Chapter of Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association held their inaugural meeting on 15th July 2021 at the Selsey Arms at Coolham, near Horsham. This was planned to be attended by the Founder Members and Officers, namely: Karl Hopper-Young Lee Norman, Paul Sorrell, Robert Daniels, Dylan Swart, Dan McLusky. Unfortunately on the way to the meeting, Karl's brand new Harley Davidson bike broke down near Brighton. Luckily he had some fellow bikers with him to keep his spirits up and to provide company whilst waiting for the repair vehicle. Half of the officers therefore had their meeting, and signed the Charter in a lay-by, the other half in the pub.



As the meeting coincided with National Gummi Worm Day (a soft chewy sweet made by the German company Trolli), these were handed to all those present and carried on every subsequent ride.

The goals of the Chapter were set:

- Introduce the wonderful world of motorcycling to our Masonic Brothers
- Raise masonic awareness in the world of motorcycling
- Supporting our own Masonic lodges with regular attendance and assisting with or attending lodge events

The Sussex Chapter continues to grow organically and now boasts a membership of 23 from across the Province;

13 Widows Sons and 10

Cornerstones many introduced at our events held during the year.



On Sunday 18th July 2021, a number of us caught the ferry from Portsmouth to Fishbourne on the Isle of Wight for a ride around the island. We were blessed with wonderful weather, smooth crossings, great company and good food. Unfortunately once again Karl's bike broke down temporarily, but due to the good company and the fun we were having, it really didn't seem to matter.

On Thursday 12th August 2021, Widows Sons, Cornerstones and guests attended a dinner at the Skyline restaurant at the Brighton & Hove Greyhound Racing Track to celebrate the new Sussex Chapter. A race was named after the Widows Sons Masonic





Bikers Association Sussex Chapter, and we were invited to go track side to meet with the winning dog and owner, which was an ideal photo opportunity. Great amusement was created when it was noticed that one of the greyhounds in our race was called Dylan, the same name as our Almoner! Unfortunately Dylan the dog was not successful on the night!

A visit to Brooklands, led by Paul Sorrell, was arranged for 18th September with a look round the museum and an interesting guided tour of the aviation & Barnes Wallis centres.



On Sunday 21st November we teamed up with the Holywell Club to put on our second Clay Shoot of the year. To start the day off properly, we all meet at the Custom Café on Barnhorn Road, Bexhill for a big breakfast before going across the road to shoot. This was great fun with prizes awarded to the best shot and very generous donations towards the Widows Sons and Holywell Club charities.

November also saw the start of our Christmas Toy Collections to provide some seasonal cheers for children in local hospitals, hospices and homes. In preparation large collection bins were placed in several Masonic Centres, café's, shops and offices.

As a result of the Toy Appeal, Karl was invited to BBC Sussex to be interviewed by Danny Pike. Later, together with Bob Daniels, our Treasurer and Road Captain, Karl was invited along to Hailsham FM to record a piece on Widows Sons. They were first shown around the building and studio, which is only a few hundred yards from Karl's offices in Hailsham. Afterwards Karl and Bob were interviewed by Neil Povey and explained to him the work that Widows Sons and Freemasonry in general carry out.





As we progressed through November into December the donations began to accumulate. Particular thanks to Eastbourne Masonic Centre for their two and a half bin full of toys. We have also been extremely fortunate to be handed as a donation a cheque to the value of £400.00 from the Worshipful Master of the Greenstede Lodge 8035 and a personal donation from the Provincial Grand Master, for both we were incredibly grateful. In addition we were given a beautiful rocking horse by a client of Karl's which was gratefully received by the Children's Respite Trust at Uckfield.

The Toy Run took place on Sunday 19th December. It must have been a strange sight that greeted early morning risers in Hailsham that morning. Through the low lying mist emerged members of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association, Sussex Chapter all dressed as Santa. Of course, no ride out would be complete without the customary bacon sarnie washed down with copious amounts of tea before we set off.

Loaded with the toys, gifts and £3050 of Amazon gift cards, we began a 4 hour, 140 mile ride to distribute them, starting at the Hastings Conquest Hospital Children's Ward at and finishing at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead. En-route dropping presents at Demelza Hospice, Children's Respite Trust, Chailey Heritage Foundation and the Queen Alexandra Children's



Hospital, Brighton. Our aim was to bring a smile to those who would otherwise have nothing but whole event also brought a huge smile to our faces.

Throughout the year the members have met at regular Natter Nights, organised many impromptu ride-outs (mainly involving a breakfast) and supported members by visiting their lodges.

Three topics seemed to dominate the WhatsApp group discussions; 1 – what is the correct order and position for the patches to be sewn

on to jackets and cuts, 2 - how many times was Karl's new bike going to break down (4 and counting) and the menu (Turkeygate) for the Christmas Meal held on the 8th December at the Fox & Hounds, Haywards Heath.

It is hard to believe that we have only been in existence for 5 months

Plans for 2022 are under way with a focus on raising money for children's charities in the province of Sussex, supporting Sussex SERV and the Matthew 25 Mission. Our aim for 2022 is to promote the Chapter within the 160 Sussex Lodges and to the wider community, to encourage a healthy membership of Cornerstones who are non-Masons.

- Monthly Natter Nights at the Fox & Hounds, Haywards Heath (19th Jan 6.30pm)
- Easter Egg Run
- June – France Trip 2nd-7th June 2022
- Online Raffle to support SERV Sussex and Matthew 25 Mission <https://app.galabid.com/servandmatthew25/register>



Beda Chapter Update

With most restriction now removed regarding covid, Beda are looking forward to 2022.

We are hoping to organise many fund-raising events, from our Comedy night to our 'Great Beda Bake Off' and hopefully a motorcycle treasure hunt.

We have many ideas in the pipeline.

We are at present selling tickets for our 'BEDA Tavern Tour London' on 2nd April.

We will be meeting at the Grand Lodge, Guided tour of the Grand Lodge. Followed by a walking tour of Masonic Taverns. All the proceeds will be going to charity

I'm sure there will be some sore heads and aching legs the next day!!

We are looking forward to meeting our Brothers from other chapters and enjoying unrestricted ride outs!

We would like to say we wish all Brothers the very best for 2022

Although Covid-19 has prevented us getting together as often as we would have liked, the regular monthly social nights have continued via Zoom. We have had some very creative quiz nights on many topics, learnt a lot and enjoyed each other's company whilst raising money for our Relief Chest from our "Crazy Legs Draw". The funds are being applied locally to charities nominated by the members. The direct and fast connection between Beda raising and donating funds has really touched both the recipients and Beda.

Blood bikers



Within Beda we also have volunteer blood and delivery riders Peter Nunn and Paul Burne.

Our heroes are out in all weathers, ensuring blood, medicines and frozen baby milk get delivered as quick as possible.

To give you some context this week in this area alone they were part of a team that did 19 jobs for Hearts Milk Bank, 13 for Keech, 9 for Luton and Dunstable and Lister. Bedford was 3 jobs. One was for a premature baby who we were told wouldn't have survived without the milk supplied. 13 prescriptions for vulnerable people in Luton were also delivered this week. All at no cost to the NHS and mainly using their own transport and fuel.

#ITSWHATWEDO

Thank you guys....

25/09/21 Our youngest member Zach

Beda heard that the young nephew of a Bedford mason was suffering from health challenges, that he liked bikes and might enjoy a visit from WSMBA. We organised our shortest rideout of the season, about 1.25 miles, from the Keep, Bedfordshire PGK HQ, to Zach's house (good job it was short given Covid-19 fuel shortages). Around 20 members including East Midlands and Icenis were involved. We presented Zach with his own WSMBA cut, and a large TLC bear from the Province. Zach was so excited when he realised he had his own "Hiram" and cut, he looked at every bike, sat on a few and tested rev limiters. For some reason he liked the Triumphs best...

02/10/22 RTTW

Beda supported RTTW again, and again it rained. The pack set off in the usual style from the RV, and within 30 seconds were lost and back at the start....Beda eventually reached the National Memorial Arboretum, our members were touched by the huge turnout to support our armed forces, and enjoyed the experience of a riding in such a large group with a police escort.



22/10/21 Milton Keynes Big Sleep Out

Beda members Google and Billie endured a cold night sleeping out at the Winter Night Shelter Unity Park Station sponsored in part by Beda raising funds for the MK Winter Night Shelter. The WNSMK is a year-round charity that provides emergency winter accommodation, year-round welfare support, food, somewhere to shower and do laundry and help to come off the streets into a better future. They currently have up to 100 people a week accessing different services at their day centre.



Google presented a cheque to the Winter Night Shelter for £150

11/11/21 Memorial Day

On a grey and overcast day Beda attended the Memorial at Bedford Cenotaph Wreaths were laid and both the serving and the fallen were remembered.

06/12/21 New President voted in

Beda voted in their new president Jeff Boote. We are confident that Jeff and Vice President Martin Shaw will rise to the challenge. Taking Beda on many journeys through 2022, having fun and of course raising funds for our various charities.

18/10/21 Initiation of Bro Andrew Mann

Beda member Bro Andrew Mann was initiated at the John Bunyan lodge, Andrew was initiated as part of a double initiation with Bro Reece Edwards French.

The initiation was attended by PGM Anthony P Henderson and fellow visiting Brothers of Beda took part in the initiation

05/12/22 Provincial Carol Service

Beda members attended the Provincial Carol service at St Pauls Church. A great evening was had by all, singing, mulled wine and mince pies.

19/12/21 Annual Christmas Party, the mayhem resumes!



After a postponement in 2020, 2021 saw the return of Beda to the Ship Inn Bedford for the annual Christmas party. A good time was had by all, good food, good company and party games including teaching us new skills of spinning plates. Raffles and other competitions ensured that we remembered our core values and were able to donate to our favourite charities afterwards.

20/12/21 Beda Santa Ride to local hospitals

Beda were pleased again to escort Bedfordshire PGM Anthony P Henderson, a Beda member, in distributing gifts to children in the Bedford and Luton and Dunstable Hospitals. This is always a happy and rewarding ride-out for Beda members, particularly those who wore Santa Suits on their journey from Bedford to Luton via the A421 and M1 attracting a lot of attention.



7/1/22 Beda raises £1100 donation to Covid-19 Almoners Fund Bedfordshire

"Dear Members of BEDA.

In the early days of the COVID-19 Pandemic, you may recall you ran a fund raising event, which raised £1100.00. That money was kindly donated by yourselves, to the Province of Bedfordshire, so I could use it at my discretion to relieve immediate distress to Brethren and their families. I have endeavoured to use the fund prudently in order to benefit as many people as I could.

For your information as I come to the end of your generous donation, I thought it would be good to let you know how I have distributed the money.

The grants have ranged between £50.00 and £300.00 including Council Tax bills, Electric Meter Cards, Weekly food bills, a Mobility Walker, a welfare pack for hospital visits, a riser chair service and emergency dental work.

Each award has been gratefully received and has made a significant, immediate short term difference to the recipients and relieved their anxiety.

Prior to your donation and this emergency, the Provincial Grand Almoner did not have such a fund to be able to call upon.

In December 2021 the Trustees of the Provincial Grand Charity agreed to maintain the fund at a yearly level of £1500.00, for the use of the PrGAlm. Therefore there is a legacy which has come out of your initial donation.

On behalf of myself and the Province, once again I thank you all.

Yours sincerely and fraternally."

Tony Green - PrGAlm, PAGDC

9/1/22 Met Southern Chapter at Super Sausage

Beda were invited to meet members of the WSMBA Southern Chapter at the Super Sausage A5 Towcester. It was a very cold rideout, well attended, but sadly we had an unusually high mechanical issue rate for two members. In true Beda spirit "no man was left behind", roadside repairs and bike recovery were quickly organised after a period of pushing a poorly BMW GS...



15/1/22 Bro Andrew Mann passing to 2nd Degree & £750 Donation to Bedfordshire Hospital Radio

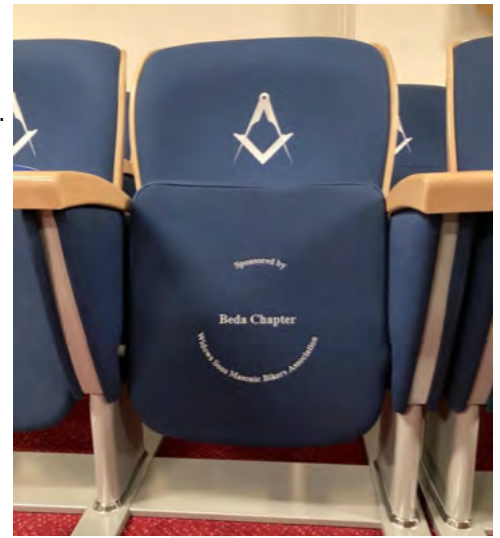
Beda members attended the John Bunyan Lodge for the passing of Bro Andrew Mann to 2nd degree.

John Bunyan lodge agreed to give Bedfordshire Hospital Radio £750. This was matched by BEDA and President Jeff Boote presented a cheque for a further £750, making a fund total of £1500

19/1/22 Beda Sponsored Chair

Beda made donation to sponsor a chair in the Robinsons Temple at the Keep last year. The chair has now been installed.

02/02/22 Bro Russ Shaw passing to 2nd Degree



Brothers of Beda attended Elstow Lodge for the passing of Bro Russ Shaw to 2nd degree.

Whilst helping raise charity funds for Beda charities, Russ is also raising charity funds for ABF The soldiers Charity.

He has taken part in Operation Bletchley: The Balkans and walked 80 miles in 31 days, cracking codes along the way.

He raised £151

06/02/22 What goes around comes around

For over 3 years. Beda has supported Kids in Action, a local charity providing facilities and events for children and young adults with learning difficulties and disabilities. Three of our members, Pikey, Spartan and Dave, built a static audio/visual experience bike backed by Beda funds and presented it to KIA. One of our KIA friends, Joe, was recently featured in advertising for a shared home scheme for Bedford Borough Council. In the photos you can see Joe, the Beda bike and our mascot Hiram the Bear in his WSMBA cut. Joe is a lovely bloke, he keeps us in tea and cake at KIA where he helps run the cafe. Joe is an F1 and MotoGP fan and has attended bike shows with Pikey, Spartan and other Beda heroes.

SHARED LIVES BEDFORD

"I transferred into the Shared Lives scheme from foster care when I was 18 years old, to help me gain independence. I became part of the family. During that time I went to college and in my final year I did a Level 1 internship course where I worked in a small independent coffee shop. I got my first paid job after I left college and I now work in a coffee shop. Shared Lives is great for people with learning difficulties."

Joe

To find out more, please contact:

Widows Sons Masonic Biker Association Icení Chapter The Netherlands

June 26, 2020, a new era in history for the Icení chapter begins with the Dutch part of the Icení Chapter, which is then officially registered at the Notary. The birth of a new adventure of many Dutch motorcycle riding free masons takes a fixed form. However, as with any new life, there is a period that precedes birth. Two years before the step to the notary is taken, 5 Brothers come into contact with each other and with the President of the Icení chapter in the UK.

supported by our Icení Chapter brothers of the Coburn Lodge, worked hard and achieved new growth in no time. 5 becomes 6, 6 becomes 10 and soon we have a nice group of motorcycle fanatics together.

The larger the group



becomes, the more the masonic community in the Netherlands becomes accustomed to it and soon the acceptance grows.

This year, despite covid-19, we are going to end with 30 initiated brothers who all have riding motorcycles as a hobby in addition to the fact that we go through life as Freemasons. In the recent years, in addition to our regular lodge, we have also spent our time with the Widows Sons and have discovered a new way of labor.



A plan is growing to provide the Netherlands with a new "motorcycle club". For the culture that characterizes Dutch Freemasonry, these brothers are a pretty strange sight. As progressive as the Dutch always seem to be, somehow it is still not "normal" when you're a Freemason to openly show it. And there are plenty of eyebrows raised with the intention to form a visible symbol of a compass and square on a motorcycle jacket. The 5 brothers,



in a country that is not known as very big, the longest distance between the different brothers is 304 kilometers (about three and a half hours drive), it still does not prevent us from getting together as often as possible. As long as regulations will let us, the goal is to meet up monthly in the riding season and all brethren are willing to host weekends and ride-outs. It brought us to all parts of the country and a little abroad. Our year started with our general members meeting in the south east City of Arnhem and went from a regular ride out to the east where we enjoyed the hospitality from our presidents lodge and “Big Daddy’s” barbecue, to the middle of The Netherlands where we conquered the small dikes and back roads around Utrecht, We visited a church named The Holy Spiritus, that was devoted to distilling the finest spirits and mead. It is owned by two brothers in the craft and we had a great weekend of tasting and hospitality. Some of us attended at the Grootlicht international Rally. Our latest ride-out was a weekend which we



have just concluded on the border of Germany and Luxembourg. We have ridden the hills of this beautiful area and enjoyed the brotherhood to the max. For us and for the locals an event that already is a tradition. The last planned event will be a gathering in Emmen where we can welcome the last five new brothers in 2021 of our chapter. This will be followed by a barbecue and the annual trip to Esterwegen (Germany) which is hosted by Grootlicht.

Many brothers describe the ambiance in the group as a free atmosphere where you can be yourself but where there is certainly room for an in-depth masonic conversation. The contact with each other is more intense than in the lodge. Often a meeting is a full weekend and you experience each other at the best and worst of your abilities. Besides being together, we also create a dependence by participating in traffic, and the bond becomes even stronger. The diversity in the personalities create a large color palette of brotherhood and it is surprising what beautiful conversations come out of it. From the real biker to the seemingly neat family man, we make the passion for motorcycling and Freemasonry even greater.

As the rules and regulations of the pandemic get more in our favour we intend to visit England and Scotland as soon as possible. Brethren remember there is a small group of masonic bike riding weirdos in this small and flat country that will always welcome you with open arms. And if you feel the need to ride and stay with us you are most welcome to come over.

Bro Pepijn Hofman

(aka *Peaky*)

Treasurer

Iceni Chapter Netherlands



Worcestershire Chapter Update

Our Worcestershire Chapter continues to expand, from our original 13 members when chartered 10 months ago, we now stand at 35. In addition to bringing in the new 22 (mainly joining) members to the Chapter, we have also just started to initiate new members both into the Chapter and Freemasonry - as our Worcestershire Motorcycling Lodge (Lodge of Progress no 9893) has changed it's ethos to be a conduit into Worcestershire Freemasonry for those interested in biking. So successful that in the past few months we now initiated our first, with 3 others waiting!



It had been 8 years that an initiation has been performed since the formation of the Lodge of Progress No. 9893 – unusual you might say, but this was a deliberate intention! When the lodge was set up in 2014, the ethos was the lodge was to “encourage any people wishing to be initiated, to join a lodge that meets on a more frequent basis”... (at that time we only met in the summer)... “ in order to more fully make a daily advancement in Freemasonry, leaving the lodge to remain focused as a special interest lodge”.



However, with the increase in an interest of masonic motorcycling and there being no other Worcestershire motorcycling lodge, plus a new route to Freemasonry in Worcestershire via the newly chartered Widows Sons Chapter, it was felt that times should change - and the Lodge changed its bylaws to meet more frequently in the winter, and aimed to take in new candidates. A route that has taken off even more quickly than envisaged, with four candidates now waiting to join! The very first memorable initiation in January 2022 was to Brother Steve “Golddust” Tilman, who had recently joined the Widows Sons “Pear Drops” and wanted to progress his masonic career by being initiated in the Lodge of Progress.



Since the last edition of the Son, we have continued to Ride, including a local hospice “santa” run - Riding around Worcester on a chilly December morning, joining around 50 other bikers dressed up all in red, delivering toys, donations and a sack full of Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) in what turned out to be a rather wet and cold day, bringing a smile to many on the route and the residents of the Hospice – whist the weather may have been a bit damp, the enthusiasm was definitely not!.

We of course look forward to starting our monthly rides again, and meeting up in the evening in the week as the weather continues to get better.

W. Bro Andy Philpott
(aka Monte)
President
Worcestershire Chapter

Wyvern Chapter Update



A Wyvern steps up to the challenge – The President of Wyvern Chapter is a serving Royal Marine and was 'selected' to support the effort to fill the void during the fuel crisis. He spent most



of October, November and December away from home and delivering fuel across the south of the country.

Having undertaken the usual induction training Royal was partnered with a regular fuel tanker driver and was really surprised to discover that he was looking to join the Widows Sons.

On 11 November Wyvern Chapter was represented at Cpl Dennis Hutchings funeral in Plymouth by Mike 'Choo Choo' Parnell (Secretary) and his brother, both of whom are Major RE Ret'd. We met up with brethren from Pilgrims Chapter and attracted some interest from potential Sons.

The event was very well attended with 300+ bikes filling the main road into Plymouth. It was a real honour to be a part of an event that barely hit the news screens.



14 November Wyvern Chapter attended the Remembrance Day Parade at Bridgewater, which has become a regular for us. What a difference a year makes. 2020 was a very restricted event with no band, no parade and very limited numbers. 2021



was well attended, the biggest turn out for the Chapter since we started attending this event, and a band was playing on the green.

We also had a very warm welcome from the Bridgewater Masonic Hall who provided tea, coffee and cake!

18 December Wyvern had a Christmas bash



Towards the end of 2021, one of the brothers suggested having breakfast meeting at Leather and Lace Bar & Grill at Chilton Polden, Somerset. The



brethren found this a very friendly and welcoming venue and the owners took us under their wing, even 'giving' us

a room that we could use for church. We liked it so much we booked it for our Christmas bash, and what a great night. The owners did us proud with great food and service.

As you would expect, our Pres 'Royal' won the drinking game, but only just. Pitstop introduced

the game and Royal couldn't resist it. He was nearly on the floor before he mastered it, but hats off to him, he stuck with it until he got to grips with it.

At our Church in January, we had a change of personnel. Gary 'APOS' sadly had to stand down as VP due to personal issues. The Chapter stands by him and his wife and are providing support where possible. Sean 'Bargain' Biggins was voted in as VP and Harry 'Riff' Blinston (Immediate Past President) was voted in as Sergeant At Arms.

February Church

Back to Leather and Lace for our February church. Planning rides for the year ahead which hopefully will be more productive than the last two. Big events for us this year are the National and RTTW with monthly ride outs.

We have had interest from around 10 potential members in Gloucestershire which takes us another step forward to creating a new Glos Chapter.

We have also had interest from 5 potential members in Bridgwater following a presentation by Harry 'Riff' Blinston.

Widows Sons Presidents AGM - Saturday 26th February 2022

With many members arriving the evening before there was already a buzz amongst those present, and reflected by the numbers mingling around the bar. The following morning the breakfast room again was humming with banter and the numbers swelling as more arrived to make it 26 Chapters represented for the first AGM in a new format after a break forced by the pandemic. Finally everyone was herded into the conference room and Peter Younger opened the proceedings around 10:25. Apologies from Cumbria, Sussex, Norfolk, Guernsey Chapters were recorded. And with the date of the next AGM potentially the 25th February 2023, hopefully that is enough notice for every chapter to be present for the next one. (One thought, shall we fix the AGM for the last Saturday in February?)

The previous minutes from the AGM held Saturday 27th July 2019 held at Lichfield RUFC, Cooke Fields, Tamworth Rd, Lichfield WS14 were circulated and agreed unanimously. There



were no matters arising so we moved onto the agenda. Utilising the screen presentation facility the report was given by Martin Ward with the assistance of Power Point. A clear breakdown of the accounts was shown on the screen, demonstrating that the account mainly supports the BMF membership fees and IT support and design. There was around £1,800 in the account but some fee's due to be allocated soon would reduce the amount of capital at our disposal.

Peter then resumed with his report again using



WSMBA was now considered a substantial and respected body with strong and developing international ties. He wanted to see the development of our website to gain the Charter Mark and put the name of the WSMBA at the forefront of Freemasonry. He went on to give thanks to the PGB for their unwavering support and gave special thanks to W. Bro. Ian Gregson for all his hard work over the years. The report was ended with a standing ovation by all those present.

the screen. He was stepping down finally and wished to thank all those involved across the board and membership over the last 12 years for their support. He spoke of the phenomenal growth of the WSMBA and displayed figures on the screen to all brethren present. The slide showed that since 2011 there had been a steady growth of membership and that it now stood at around 1,000 members in the UK and Ireland, plus now had members in Gibraltar and Portugal, all of whom were represented at the meeting. He went on the explain that the

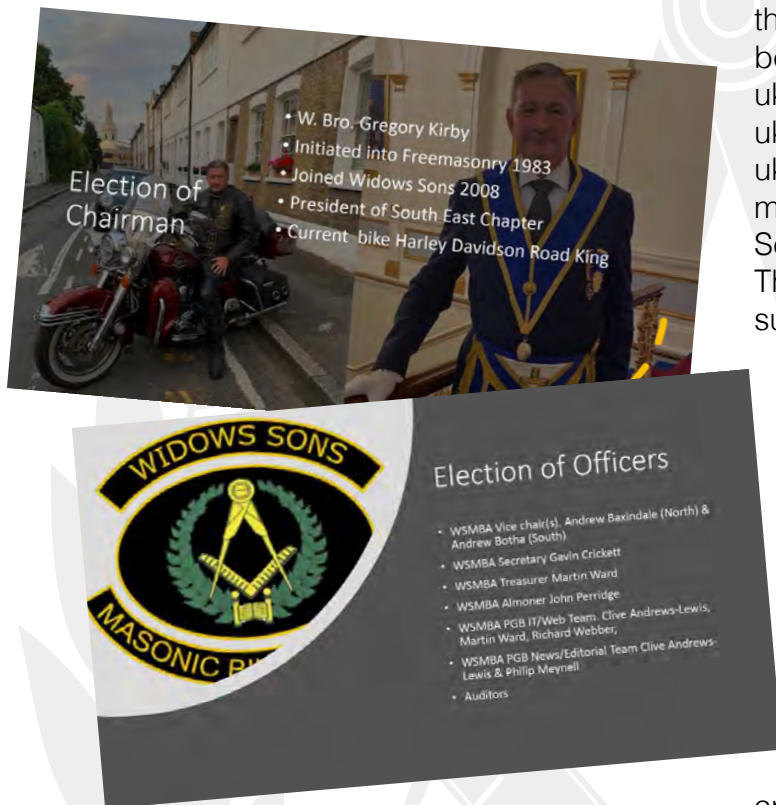


Next up was the almoner, John Perridge, or Grumpy to those that know him better. His full report had been circulated so he just touched on the significant points that he wanted us all to take away, being that there are resources available to almoners and the importance of Care Card. A brief explanation of his role as an MCF Visiting Volunteer was given. On



an emotional note John wished to thank the brethren who had supported him with the fund raising and assistance for "Matty", who had now sadly passed to the Grand Lodge Above. The brethren received his report with the humility and respect it demanded. Thank you Grumpy for all you do for the Association from all of us.

Peter now back into the fray with the Election of Chairman & Appointment of PGB Officers (Back Office). In the absence of any other nominations the following were appointed: WSMBA



Chairman Gregory Kirby. In the absence of any other nominations the long-standing Vice Chair and acting secretary was duly elected as the new Chairman. He duly thanked all those present for their support and faith in him as he took the reins. Praise was duly given to the outgoing Chairman and pointed out to the assembled brethren that Peter Younger would be moving to a new and much needed role as Development Executive. Peter Younger was then appointed to that role with responsibility to represent the Association at UGLE, Foreign Lodges, New Chapter Overseer in the event of difficulties. Peter was considered the ideal candidate due to the length of time as Chairman and contacts made during his tenure that will ensure the Association is represented consistently. In quick succession, the following

members were elected to the Back Office of the PGB: Vice Chair Andrew "Baxi" Baxindale; Secretary Gavin Crickett; Treasurer Martin Ward; Almoner John Perridge Overarching Almoner to the WSMBA liaising as and when required at Chapter level; IT/Web Team. Clive Andrews-Lewis, Martin Ward and Richard Webber; News/Editorial/Media Team Clive Andrews-Lewis & Philip Meynell. Responsible for producing our most successful promotional material to date.

Those in the back office have been allocated the following email addresses and should be used as appropriate: chairman@wsmba.uk; vice-chair@wsmba.uk; secretary@wsmba.uk; treasurer@wsmba.uk; almoner@wsmba.uk; support@wsmba.uk; news@wsmba.uk. In most cases initial contact should be via the Secretary so that a record is kept in one place. The Almoner is obviously for the confidential support. Support will deal with IT web and email forwarding, so every time there is a change of office in your Chapter remember to update Martin with the relevant emails and names, as well as the Secretary. And finally a dedicated easy to remember email for submitting your articles to the Son Editorial team news@wsmba.uk. Remember NO PDFs with embedded photos as that does not work for them. Plain text with photos attached to the email is all they require and any notes if you want a photo in a certain place. They are good at what they do and will utilise their creative juices to slide it all together! The issues of the Son will also carry their contact details, rules for submitting articles and the deadlines mid-February, May, August and November.

Our Treasurer, now wearing his IT hat, stepped up to give an overview of the IT support available to the WSMBA. He has negotiated a web hosting and email package that ALL Chapters can utilise and this helps to standardise much of what we can do in communicating. For example a web hosting www.surrey.wsmba.uk will also have president@surrey.wsmba.uk, treasurer@, secretary@ etc. Although they have a site up as www.ws-surrey.co.uk, Martin makes everything point to where it should. Another example www.worcs.wsmba.uk is already being hosted without any pointing required and with the supporting email addresses as mentioned above for £10 a year! Those with third party hosting and

email packages are typically paying around £120 a year. Our package is £10 per annum per Chapter with your very own support team, (Martin Ward), that will not leave you waiting in a call queue to assist.

We now have our very own Zoom account with a single login. This will be used for PGB meetings and other national or emergency issues. Usage will be arranged via a shared calendar Team UP. Major benefit PGB quarterly meetings SECOND Sunday March, June, September and December no longer limited to 45 minutes. All Chapters will have access to this account but has to be pre-booked and it was suggested the Team UP app should be used and shared by all.

All the above IT comes at a price and it is anticipated that each Chapter will be levied £15 for the IT element, being the hosting package and Zoom facility above, plus the annual cost of the BMF contribution per capita, in December. BMF Associate membership gives us public liability cover for all WSMBA events.

WSMBA Bank Account: Peter Reed and Mike Haywood are elected as auditors having volunteered, thank you brethren. Martin Ward, Treasurer hat on again, is tasked to locate a second signatory within a reasonable distance to sign cheques, as having second signatories at opposite ends of the UK was not practical. Our finances, including Chapter, must always be overseen by members of the Association, not Associate members or third parties. As one would expect to happen in your lodges.

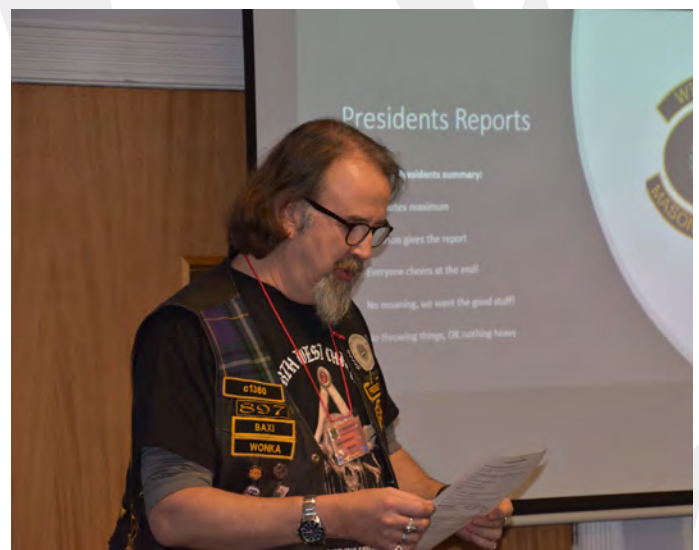


Chapter Emergency Payments limit £100. Events over the last 2 years have evidenced the need for Presidents to be allowed to make charitable donations at very short notice to worthy causes. Only a month before this meeting a brother was in

serious need of help and Chapters across the UK stepped into the tune of £1200 within days. This change to your bylaws would bring the protocols in line with current procedures within Craft Lodges. So can you check yours and amend if you are agreed. We are also working on model bylaws.

The AGM then broke for refreshments before resuming with the agenda.

Growth. The members were asked to think about Best Practice and ideas for moving the membership forward. It was recognised that great efforts were being made and achieved. There would be opportunity later in the Presidents report to mention some of those ideas.



Retention of WSMBA members. Food for thought! The question was put out there, are we doing enough to make it fun? Are some chapters too rigid in structure and interpretation of the Constitution? Are bylaws easy to comply with and clear? Brethren stated that they had seen members leave over issues and join other Chapters to stay in a Widows Sons. So the Association as a whole is doing something right. Other Chapters mentioned they had moved away from the "Old school" and had an open-door policy to "Bikers" who showed an interest, with a view to the joining Freemasonry in general, our "associate" scheme? Some brethren enquired about the patching ceremony and how they do it. Some give patches at a brother's Raising, some hold special ceremonies to make the event memorable and welcoming to the Fraternal Family. Brother Presidents if you are losing membership are you following up the reasons? This has to be fun and not a chore,



Masonry is all about making good men better. Constitution Rewrite/Review. This item appears regularly on the AGM agenda and a team was assembled to get to grips with it. Progress has been slow but with COVID behind us and optimism renewed, plus another volunteer, drafts should be distributed to be ratified at the Rally in July. It was agreed that the members of the Draft Review Team would also look into drafting model bylaws to sit alongside the Constitution.

Limit officers' tenure (if not in constitution). The Chair pointed out that Constitution stipulates 3 years for Presidents. Extension to be ratified by the PGB. Recent experiences suggest this should be adhered to in case a President has overstayed his welcome, giving the membership the opportunity to allow change. It was also mentioned that the agreed term was thought out some years ago and in-line with Masters in The Chair. It was further discussed that some holders were happy in position and their members also happy with the arrangement. All agreed that regular periods of review should take place and confirmation sought as to any continuance of the role. Rotation is also good as it spreads experience and gives other the chance to have a go. Making mistakes should also be treated sympathetically as we are not perfect but are striving to improve the Association and secure its future.

Future Rally arrangements, fine tune the 7 proposed Regions and agree order in which rally will be circulated. The map showing regions was circulated prior and briefly discussed. It was initially assembled based on number of Chapters and membership. Some commented



with a degree of flexibility as our lodges now practice.

Returning to the patching of members can we have examples sent in as many Presidents have expressed interest in developing something similar. Maybe a "Patch Edition" of the Son could be circulated?

MRA and how to move forward. Those that wear the Alliance Patch are already aware that we are in Amity with the MRA and those behind the issuing and design of that patch will not Charter in England & Wales. To other flavours of Masonic Bikers, we are always to act professionally and friendly and respect their wishes to be what they are? A number of Brethren expressed their views and it was strongly pointed out that the Scottish WSMRA known as WSS, was not included in the discussion, as they are members of the Alliance and are very much in align with the values and standards of the WSMBA. The subject was raised as "was it possible to hold membership in both camps". It was pointed out that the MBA is the only Biker group recognised by UGLE and is in the Year Book. The MRA it was felt did not uphold the same standards and values and membership was NOT compatible for both versions. The motion of Single membership was Proposed by Peter Younger and Seconded by Alan Doyle and carried unanimously. Hope that makes it clear for everyone now.

Freemasons first then bikers, a reminder.

A reminder to the brethren from the chair our Freemasonry is what unites us. The BoC instructs us how to behave. Our passion for biking has brought us together as the WSMBA. An Association to Masonry. We are held in high esteem by UGLE and the Provinces. Please maintain the high standard expected of us.

on the geographical size of some areas and that some Provinces were split from established allies. All Presidents would again be provided with a copy displaying the regions for feedback. The regions being agreed and officially formed primarily for admin and possible disputes but also for hosting Rallies. If each chapter held a National Rally, it could take 30 odd years to get to hold one! Plus, many hands making light work, shares the burden and associated costs of putting one on amongst several chapters. Those that have held rallies are sure would lend their expertise and Peter Younger is keen to build up inventory for the Association to use wherever needed. Maybe one day our own Rally Van suitably painted? The Widows Sons Rally Bus, and by day a bike recovery service? Peter also suggested that the Rallies should concentrate on fun, (that word again), and not raising funds as that is an activity going on all the time.

Agree any additional WSMBA management that can be handled at Regional level rather than by the PGB as a whole. The Chair commented that at the moment complaints are being handled by the Secretary and Vice chair. To provide a better service it is suggested that the Vice Chair can delegate a team of PGB members to assist the Secretary to deal locally to resolve. The Region Map becomes more relevant and does



need to be agreed ASAP as more Chapters are formed. This will make administration more effective and matters/issues that need to be raised by a Chapter could be dealt with quickly on a Region/Local basis rather than National. Final decisions should always fall to the full PGB, if the complaints or issues were not resolved by Region, for final decision making. This was



agreed by the brethren and passed accordingly. A lot of physical ground to cover now so a Vice Chair for the South to share the workload with Baxi?

Major events such as chapter rally's as well as WSMBA National Rally. Calendar sharing - Many chapters in the past have asked and talked about sharing events. This has been researched by the IT Team and now recommend the free version of Team Up for each chapter. Martin Ward, explained how this would work and would send out more detailed information to those interested. Stop Press: The account is now up and running and volunteers are starting to populate the calendar. Just email in your events, biker related masonic meetings, bike shows, etc. Do send in as much detail as possible. Jamie Osborne has volunteered to maintain the TeamUp Calendar so send what you have to Jamie.osborn@hotmail.com

Luncheon was then taken! And for those in first am sure it was splendid. The tail had to wait for top ups and frozen onion bhajis that were harder than cricket balls. Grumpy has fed back the comments and should we use the venue in 2023 am sure they will improve the service. The staff have certainly been excellent to deal with and kind to us at all times.

WSMBA social media presence. Websites, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook. WSMBA has a presence now on all social media platforms. The IT Team and Jamie "Ozzy" Osborn have been running the media content. Our part to play is to make sure anything posted is within the bounds expected of us by the social media guidelines published by UGLE. Do not get involved in slanging matches as screen shots are very easy to grab. We must always maintain the moral high ground. If in doubt say nought. If you can't say anything nice, say nothing. Jamie explained to the brethren how he has been using Twitter to

promote the activity within his Province and was happy to be Point of Contact to anyone needing coaching in this area. He has recently used the Stonecutters Biker Down experience to good effect on Twitter and that has been pushed on by DocBike as another positive commentary for Masonry.

The Presidents in alphabetical order then presented their reports, with a couple of exceptions from our newer members, kept within the three-minute rule. In summary, all is well and growth, despite the restraints imposed by Covid-19 has been steady for some and rapid for others. We, like the rest of the UK, were re-establishing old routines and getting out more amongst the communities. Promoting good deeds and causes and showing the face of Freemasonry to the general public. Some good ideas raised and taken away. Membership to MBA up, membership to Freemasonry up and positive feelings up!! Takes aways included: Breakfast Runs, Natter Nights, Light Blues Clubs, Presidents Ball in each Region for Lifelites Appeal.

The last one brings us nicely onto a good cause that we can all get behind as one Association. Lifelites. Their mission statement is: To enrich the lives of children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions in children's hospices by providing them with the latest assistive and inclusive technologies relevant to their needs and abilities and to support them with maintenance and training, all free of charge. Free of charge to the Hospices

maybe, but they have to source the funds to keep up their good work. Lifelites appreciate the support they get from some of us already and their visit around the Provinces year before last was well supported by the WSMBA. That drive around the Provinces was aimed at the PGMs and they in turn are taking up the gauntlet to become a Lifelites Platinum Partner.

How good would that be for us to also join the ranks of a Province as one too? To qualify we need to pledge to raise £20,000 over four years. £5000 per annum divided by 30 Chapters is £167 a year. Per current membership that equates to £5.25 per annum for four years. A pint of beer in some pubs in London is £5.35! I believe this is achievable and already some of you have pitched ideas how to hit target. If we go for it Lifelites will let everyone know we are on board. Can I count on your support? Full details will be published in the "Son" spring edition.

The Agenda now over it just remained to thank the organisers of the event and to the staff at the hotel. All agreed that it had been a vast improvement on past activities and will allow the PGB to enjoy the National Rally.

And finally, thanks were again given to Peter Younger for his outstanding Leadership over the past 12 years.

Meeting closed 5.17pm

WSMBA
Lifelites
Platinum
Partner
Appeal





“Onwards and Upwards”



Next issue

The Spring issue of **THE Son** will be published on 1st June 2022

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 - not embedded in documents) for the next issue to the Editor by email to: wsmбанews@gmail.com no later than **Wednesday 18th May** as this impacts publication dates!

Please all be safe, ride safe and keep well.



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>

