

# THE SON



Issue 6  
Summer 2022



Greetings one and all and I hope you find this edition of **"The SON"** just as interesting as the others and that you are sharing a copy with friends and family, and anyone else

you think might be interested in what we get up to. We have our first article from a riding RW Bro Michael J Wilks Past ProvGM Hampshire and Isle of Wight within these pages and it is hoped other notable masonic connections can also be coerced to contribute to future editions.

I am now three months into the role as Chairman and striving to put in place the actions agreed at the AGM. One very important item is the Constitution Review. The team is being resurrected and those identified with relevant skills brought in to assist so that we have something to put before the PGB sooner rather than later. We need the Constitution to be a robust framework within which to operate and not to be onerous. Once accepted and understood, it should only need referring to when things go wrong. There is no place for bullies or empire builders within our Chapters, rather we strive to do things right and maintain harmony, as we would do in lodge, leaving it to gather dust on a shelf, but it is there to refer to when required. Model bylaws are also being looked at as well. Any suggestions please send to [secretary@wsmba.uk](mailto:secretary@wsmba.uk). This is your Association after all □.

As usual the generosity and speed with which you all respond to raise funds for good causes never ceases to amaze me. In very short time £4000 was donated to UGLEs' Ukraine Appeal flagged up by Baxi. And one of our newest and smallest Chapters scratched together an impressive £1300. An awesome effort and well done to Darren and his members nestled amongst the apes on the Rock of Gibraltar. On a sadder note, donations have also flooded in for Brother Phil Buchan, 31 - RIP, who lost his life in a motorcycle accident. He was a quiet friendly lad who loved his Freemasonry and membership of Widows Sons Scotland. He will be sadly missed. Even more heart-breaking, he leaves behind his young partner Gina, who is expecting their first child in a few weeks' time. The donations are still coming in.

Not a great fan of Facebook but when I do venture into its murky depths the number of dynamic Widows Sons postings is impressive. And as the riding season improves so do the activities. It was good to follow Parisi down to Portugal where there is always a warm welcome and I don't just mean the sunshine. Portugal are a very sociable Chapter and Jose and his members always appear to be tucking into food in their photos. If you visit you have been warned!

Plenty of events being posted too and the big one for us of course is the National Rally. <https://www.facebook.com/events/s/widows-sons-national-rally-202/1026437404774813/> The planning that has gone into this one will make it the best ever. And it is not about raising funds, it is about having fun, (don't forget to bring your apron). And of course the ideal opportunity to meet up and swap ideas, suggestions and greet the recent chartered members officially. Dorset Chapter are doing their best to be included this year, ably mentored by the Stonecutters led by Jamie "Ozzy" Osborne. We are currently over 1000 strong within 31 Chapters and still growing. Something our five founders would be proud of, with special mention to departed merit, Br. Ray (Psycho) Brenni RIP, who recently passed. Jon Long, now our only active founder expected the

Association to grow to 100. From humble acorns do might oaks grow.

As pledged, on the 22nd April 2022 at Millwall FC South East Chapter launched the Lifelites Platinum Partner Appeal. Bearing in mind we are trying to raise £20,000 over four years, so far over £2,100 is in the pot and Banger of Icenis has chewed this over with his Chapter and pledged £2,200. What a phenomenal start within three weeks. On the strength of this Lifelites have already issued our certificate which the web maestro, Martin "Mandown" Ward has already placed on our website [www.wsmba.uk](http://www.wsmba.uk). We are now up there with the few Provinces that have already achieved it, and above some that are only Gold Partners. May we be excused a friendly snigger here? When I first ran this idea past Peter Younger, now our Association's Development Officer, he said we would do it in three years. I have revised it to two years, but as stated above YOU, reading this, never cease to amaze me with your generosity for good causes, so am not taking any more bets this could be done in a year! We now have a relief chest number as well E1072, so individuals can donate and claim the extra 25% be added to their donations.

Samuel Davies, on behalf of the Lifelites Team, have asked me to pass on their "Sincere Thanks" for the support we give as an Association to Freemasonry. They are now located, alongside the MCF, in the basement at Freemasons Hall so they must be doing something right to have that level of support for their charity.

The next report will be September and by then the National Rally will have come and gone, but we still have our PGB Quarterly Zoom sessions to look forward to, (next one second Sunday in June), and do remember that the WSMBA have subscribed so Chapters can also book the facility for their own meetings. Gavin Crickett, our secretary, has the booking codes [secretary@wsmba.uk](mailto:secretary@wsmba.uk)

In the meantime, please enjoy your masonry and motorcycling and keep the shiny side up.

Sincerely & Fraternally Yours

W. Bro Gregory Kirby  
**National Chairman**



**THE Son** is edited by W. Bro Phil Meynell

Please send submissions as Word files with attached pictures by email to: [news@wsmba.uk](mailto:news@wsmba.uk)

*Philip Meynell (aka Animal)*



## “Masons unmasked”

A set of questions to get to know our members.

**Name:** Bro Jon Sealey (YARD DOG)

**Which WS chapter are you in:** West Midlands

**When did you join Masonry:** I was initiated into Forresters 456 in 2018

**Out of all of your bikes, which has been your favourite:**  
VTR1000 FireStorm

**What has been your most memorable moment in Freemasonry:** Bro English singing the initiates song to me

**What has been your most memorable moment in the Widows Sons:** Getting patched by Clivey after i took my 3rd Degree

**How long have you been riding motorbikes:** 36 years

**What is your favourite route for a ride out:** The A515 to the Peak District

**Pineapple on pizzas yes or no?** A simple NO!

**What is the best country you have visited and why:** Six month UN tour of Cyprus. I love the island.

**What is your favourite degree in craft masonry and why:**  
Initiation and being able to share in a new brothers journey

**What is your favourite type of music:** Anything from the 60's

**Apart from masonry and the WS what other past time do you enjoy:** Fly Fishing

**Favourite sweets:** Twix

**Favourite drink:** Tea

**What's the one thing you wish you could do:** Change the world for the better

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



Please feel free to submit your answers to these same questions by email to **The SON** editor:  
[news@wsmba.uk](mailto:news@wsmba.uk)





# GIBRALTAR CHAPTER

A very welcome start to the New Year where we have seen a giant step forward towards the old way of life.

In February the WSGC had their first AGM, the meeting was well attended and the officers for the prescribing year 2022/23 were elected. This was important as those officers would represent the Gibraltar Chapter at the UK AGM later that month.



During our attendance in the WSMBA UK AGM, the Gibraltar Chapter was presented with its own Charter by the outgoing PGB President Brother Peter Younger. It was a very welcoming experience for resident members also in attendance, this opportunity finally allowed us to integrate face to face with many of the UK and Portugal members and brothers.



Listening to the reports presented by all Chapter Presidents in attendance, gave us a better understanding what being part of WSMBA was all about. It is essential that WS Gibraltar Chapter continue to attend this annual meeting and any other events within the United Kingdom going forward.

The Gibraltar Chapter members have been very busy taking on ALL opportunities, the ride outs are becoming very well attended amongst the members.

At the AGM it was decided that Ride Outs should be scheduled monthly (4th Saturday), this would allow the members to have a clearer indication of the set dates and therefore allow for easier planning. Ride Outs in the last months have proved very positive, great routes to several Andalusian destinations becoming very popular again and great fun.



Whilst we are looking forward to the summer tours, some of the members in February had the opportunity to ride to Tavira in Portugal to support our sister Portuguese Chapter with the initiation of one of their own Cornerstones.







The opportunity to witness an initiation ceremony worked under the Grand Lodge of Portugal (Scottish Rite) which was a first to many of us.

As always when visiting Portugal, the Portuguese Chapter and on this occasion the brethren of Don Alfonso III Lodge ensured we felt very welcomed. The evening was complete when we were invited to their local restaurant for a 'very' late Festive Board.



This years Egg Run took place on 7th April, Easter Eggs were donated to Dr Giraldi Home, St Bernadette's, Rainbow Children's Ward at St Bernard's Hospital and St Martins Special School. It was a great social and charitable event to mark the forthcoming Easter period in Gibraltar, all children and staff receiving the Easter Eggs were delighted to see us again on a second year.





# The Widows Sons Lodge 10011



Two years ago, an email appeared in the inbox of the Provincial Grand Master RWBro Gillion. It was from the Primus Master elect of the Widows Sons Lodge, which was awaiting consecration, this email was asking how they would best go about raising

the funds to provide a Blood Bike for the province and especially in the east as there wasn't a blood bike in the area and the NHS and local community would greatly benefit from the voluntary services that this organisation has to offer.

Meetings were set up and held with FCYNER, Blood Bikes and the incoming master of the lodge to formulate a plan. It was agreed that if the Widows Sons Lodge could start the fundraising off then other avenues would be explored to raise the £21,000 needed to provide this much needed motorcycle for the benefit of the residents of our province.

Although the lodge wasn't yet formed the founders managed to raise £1000.00 to get things moving, a visit to the local BMW Motorcycle dealer ensured that the bike would be supplied at cost and then Province took over and through the Freemasons charity Yorkshire North and East Ridings and the MCF a brand-new BMW R1250RT LE was supplied with the Blood Bike livery.

It was hoped that at the consecration on the 9th of April of the all-new Widows Sons Lodge 10011 that the bike could be handed over but due to slight delays this wasn't possible, however with the bike now just awaiting its 'Blues & Two's' it was unveiled at the Yorkshire North & East Ridings Convocation in



York on the 14th of May.

It was a proud moment for the Province and especially for the Lodge.

The Widows Sons Lodge 10011 will continue to support this bike as their favoured charity and

the Worshipful Master Andy Hunn and some of their members are also holding their hands up to volunteer to become Blood Bikers.

The new bike has been aptly



named 'The Widows Son' in appreciation for their



support both in the instigation and ongoing support offered by the new lodge.





## Cheshire Chapter Roundup

A group from the Cheshire Widows Sons had a fantastic time at the Branding in Scotland.

What great hosts these guys are, more than ably led by Andy Rankin and his whole team.

The place, the atmosphere and the company all brought the ceremony to a great evening. Thank you guys, we had a wonderful time.

Earlier in the year some of the group also visited Rosslyn Chapel and enjoyed a very informative tour of both the chapel and grounds. This is a rather special place but having a very knowledgeable tour guide brought the place to life.

We showed our respects to the fallen by joining the annual The Falklands Ride Of Respect. But credit must go to Pail Moore, Andrew McColgan, Tony McKe and Paul Damant who visit each grave of the fallen during that conflict. They ensure the fallen are not forgotten, show respect to the families of the fallen, raise awareness of where the fallen lay and support fundraising for SAMA82 for not only the veterans but also their families.

If you get a chance to attend next year's trip, I urge you to go, the guys will make you more than welcome. If you fancy donating visit their [www.Justgiving.com/fundrasing/Falklandsrideofrespect2022](http://www.Justgiving.com/fundrasing/Falklandsrideofrespect2022)

Cheshire Widows Sons also had their Annual General Meeting where we started the meeting by the President presenting the Charge of the Widows Sons. There were lots to discuss, the big take-away for me was the enthusiasm and dedication shown by the group.





## WB MBA Pilgrims visit the WSMBA Stonecutters Cider Rally.

Camping gear packed, bikes fuelled and ready, weather forecast sunny and warm - sometimes you just KNOW it is going to be a great weekend.

Ten Pilgrims members and associates met up at Exeter services for the ride to West bay in Dorset. Once there and making new friends with members of the WSMBA East Kent Chapter, we dodged the seagulls to eat fish and chips in the sunshine. Our Road Captain Pete Beazley (Pyro), who had originally planned a late night ride home to attend an early morning appointment, decided not to miss the fun and made a rapid trip into Bridport to buy a tent and a couple of sleeping bags!

After lunch Pilgrims and East Kent rode on together to the campsite at Bredy Farm in Burton Bradstock. Our hosts, the Stonecutters Chapter had already set up a mess tent with benches, and gave us all a warm welcome.



With tents up, several of us investigated the site and found the bar. Several ciders (and rum) later, we ambled back to the campsite, where the barbecue was in full swing.

Once everyone had finished eating, all full WS members were asked to attend a Patching in ceremony for our associate member Dick York. This was done with good humour, but great solemnity. Our IPP Mark Hart, (Crabfat) presented his officers with tokens of thanks and respect for their service through his tenure as President of the Pilgrims Chapter.

As dusk fell, most of the Brethren made their way up to the Farm buildings, where a live Ska Band played a great set. A 9 'o'clock toast to Absent Brethren was drunk, and we followed the sound of the music indoors, where several Brothers were

spotted 'Dad Dancing' to a mix of disco and club music.

Morning came early with a dawn chorus of birdsong and ducks, not to mention a few groans from the Brethren. After a cooked breakfast provided by the Stonecutters, we packed tents back onto bikes and started our ride back to Devon. Everyone arrived home dry, with no breakdowns or accidents to mar a cracking weekend.

We are already looking forward to the next WS Rally, to be hosted by the Pilgrims Chapter on 2-3 July 2022.

Huge thanks to the Stonecutters Chapter for all their hard work.





# Widows Sons MBA National Rally 2022

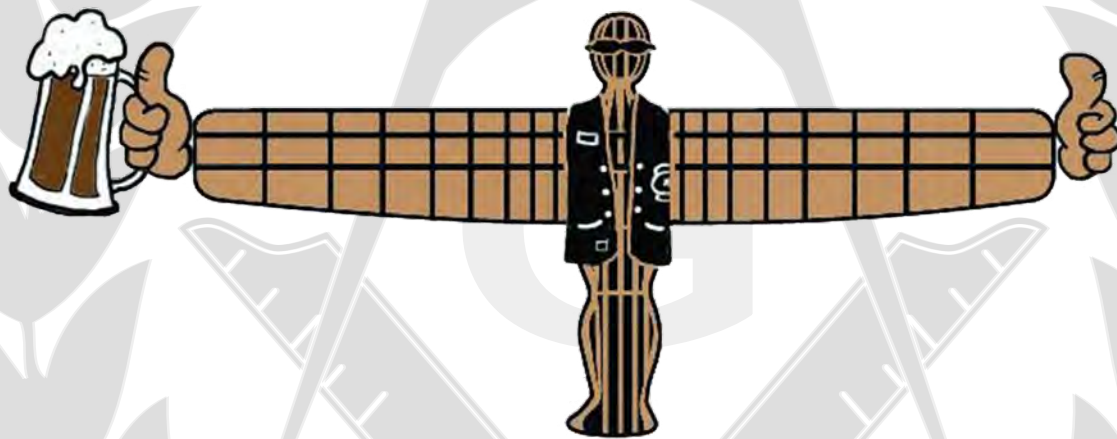
## “The Northern Bash”

**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](mailto:wsrally2022@gmail.com)

Bishop Auckland Rugby Club,  
Bridge Road, Bishop Auckland DL14 7PA

Hosted by:

WS Northumbria, WS Durham, WS Cumbria

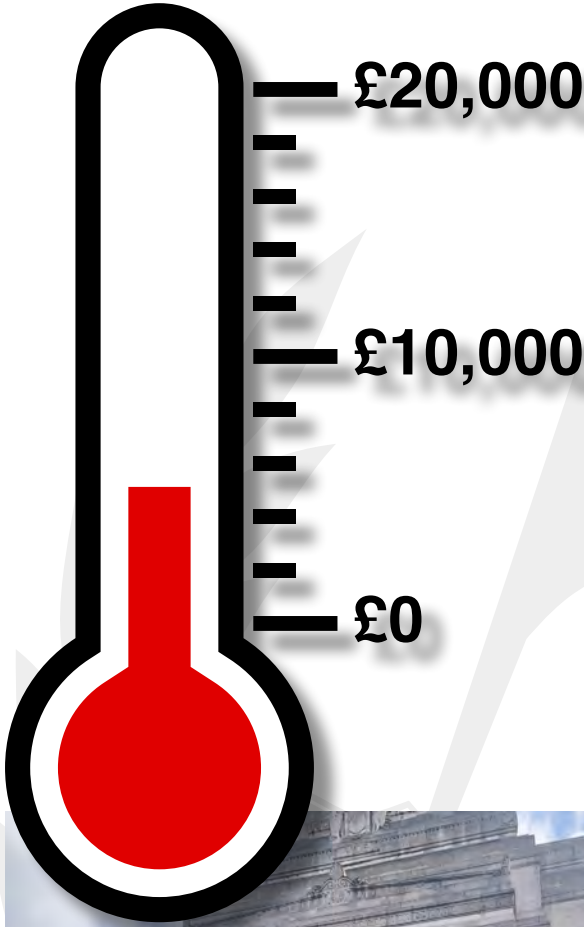
Camping on site • campervans • Shower blocks available • No pets allowed





# Lifelites update:

Launched the Lifelites Appeal on the 22nd with Millwall celebrating St George's Day, the red line now stands at £4285 that would be a terrific start to the first £5,000 for 2022-23. But if we are raising funds that fast we may knock this out in 12 months...



Press Release  
 For immediate release  
 Contact details: sdavies@lifelites.org



### Bikers to help tech charity give life-limited children a chance to escape the confines of their conditions

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.

Thanks to support from the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association (WSMBA) over the past few years, Lifelites has been able to continue to empower children with life limiting conditions through the donation of magical technology that helps to enhance their creativity and communicating capabilities. This year, the WSMBA pledged to become a Lifelites Platinum Partner and raise £20,000 over the next four years to give vital support to children using hospice services, and to help them go beyond the limits of their reality by using life changing technology.

One piece of technology that offers extraordinary possibilities is the Lifelites donated Virtual Reality Equipment. Through this, Lifelites have found a way to provide an escape from the real world by immersing a child in a sensational experience wherever they may be, enabling them to swim with dolphins, fly like a bird or discover new places. To show their support to Lifelites' mission, and experience part of the magic, the WSMBA participated in a photoshoot, part of a wider campaign, to highlight the inspiring changes/opportunities brought by the amazing technology that Lifelites donates.

Of the experience, Gregory Kirby, Chairman of the WSMBA, said "I've been involved in fundraising for Lifelites for many years now. The work they do is incredible, giving children in hospices the chance to have fun. Being a Widows Son is about having fun with your friends, but also about doing good, and it is a privilege to lead a 1,000 strong association working together to support children who need that support more than most."





## W. Bro Jon Anderson of NWC takes medicine to Ukraine border... and brings back desperate mum and child.

W. Bro Jon Anderson of the Northwest Chapter and volunteer Blood Biker from Widnes selflessly drove across Europe for two days to deliver a van load of medical supplies to Ukrainians fleeing war.

Jon Anderson, 49, found himself spending days at the border supporting the aid effort before picking up a refugee and her son to bring back to safety in the UK. Jon had been shocked by scenes of devastation in the news and decided to do something to help, prompting his wife to ask if he was serious.

Before long he'd packed a van with bandages, cannulas, dressings, antiseptics, needles, and other medical kit as well as food, baby food and nappies and set off for the Polish border with Ukraine. He said family and friends were "incredible" and backed the effort by donating items and more than £3,400 towards costs, proud to say that the Widows Sons were the largest

donator to this magnificent effort.

After completing two-and-a-half days of trans-continental motoring, Jon arrived at night and immediately set about distributing the supplies to those who needed them.

Jon, said that "I'd been watching the Ukrainian crisis and it had been bothering me, you turn off after a while as it gets too much. It started to bug me. My wife came home from work and I said 'what do you think about me going to the Ukraine-Poland border?' She said 'are you serious?' I said 'I've never been more serious in my life'

"I've got a van, I'd fill it with medical supplies, baby food, nappies - things they need - and drive it out there. That was my plan."

Instead of heading straight home to Widnes after emptying his van, father-of-two Jon stayed in the area for days as a volunteer doing shuttle runs





for other volunteers from Poland and abroad and making himself useful around the area of Korczowa, Medyka and Przemyśl.

Jon mainly bedded down for a few hours at night in a bunk in his van, with his woollen hat keeping the frosty temperatures at bay as the mercury plunged to -4°C causing his breath to freeze on the glass. However, he also found sanctuary with an offer from a priest to sleep in a monastery and the refugee centre itself.

During his stay, the gravity of the situation was brought home to him as he found himself taking a wrong turn towards a Polish anti-aircraft battery, heard the distant rattle of anti-aircraft fire and thudding explosions, saw smoke rising from the horizon after a Russian airstrike on an airport at Lviv, and was shocked to learn of human traffickers looking to prey on people in dire vulnerability.

He said: "Every day of it was heartbreaking". One of his tasks involved taking a volunteer to a "brilliant" pharmacy where they stocked up on medicines, painkillers and more supplies to be taken across the border to share with Ukrainians in the city of Lviv, which has suffered missile attacks from Russian forces.

Jon said: "I stayed for longer than intended and when it came to the end I was pretty burned out. I was burned out a few times."

On the way back he decided to offer someone the chance to travel back to the UK for sanctuary, and asked someone who spoke Ukrainian to make a sign for him advertising the offer of a lift.

This caught the attention of 49-year-old Ukrainian Galyna, her teenage son Max with their cat, who together had fled the heavily bombed city of Sumy near the Russian border but had found themselves waiting five days in Krakow for some way to continue their journey.

Over coffee, Jon and Galyna verified he was a genuine volunteer, and Galyna was "over the moon" to find transport for her, her son and cat, but on the long drive back were barred entry to England at Calais, where they had to stay behind to work their way through the application system, including trips to Paris for biometrics.

Jon said this was despite him having found a suitable sponsor in the form of a single mum

with a cat in Runcorn who had offered to take the refugees in, and despite Jon and his wife agreeing to take them in as a backup plan.

The process for Galyna was needlessly complicated, requiring return trips between Calais and Paris despite refugees being concentrated in Calais. The situation was difficult for Jon, who is keeping in touch with Galyna and hoping to help her to complete the trip.

He said: "We thought we had everything boxed off and we're prepared to put them up, but there's so much misinformation, they're being sent on a right race round Paris. They've got an English sponsor and they have to go to Paris to get biometrics done.

"If they're in Calais they have to go to Paris and if they have to get their passport they have to go to Paris. There are all these complications and hurdles - does it need to be that complicated or are we not being that helpful?"

Happily after a few weeks, this was resolved and Galyna and Max were brought to the UK.

#### **Jon's reflection on the situation –**

"You can see how much they still need. You know you're a small piece of it, a tiny piece, but you've touched people's lives, you've helped them. There are so many more who need help, and when you've exhausted your resources and yourself, it's so difficult to get in the van and drive away."

The Widows Sons were the biggest financial donor as individuals and as an organisation and WS W. Bro Graham Runacus organised the large amount of medical supplies from John Moores medical school Liverpool. So a huge effort from the Widows Sons NWC

As a final aside from Jon:

*"Just to let you know that Galyna and Maksim are here now with their sponsor family and I'm still in regular contact to help support them and other sponsors and Ukrainian refugees in our area, via a Local homes for Ukraine support group that I've setup. We connect families with sponsors. We offer visa advice, language classes, community groups, help them to get registered with GPs schools etc and even find employment."*

#### **Jon is a credit to the Widows Sons and Masonry in general**

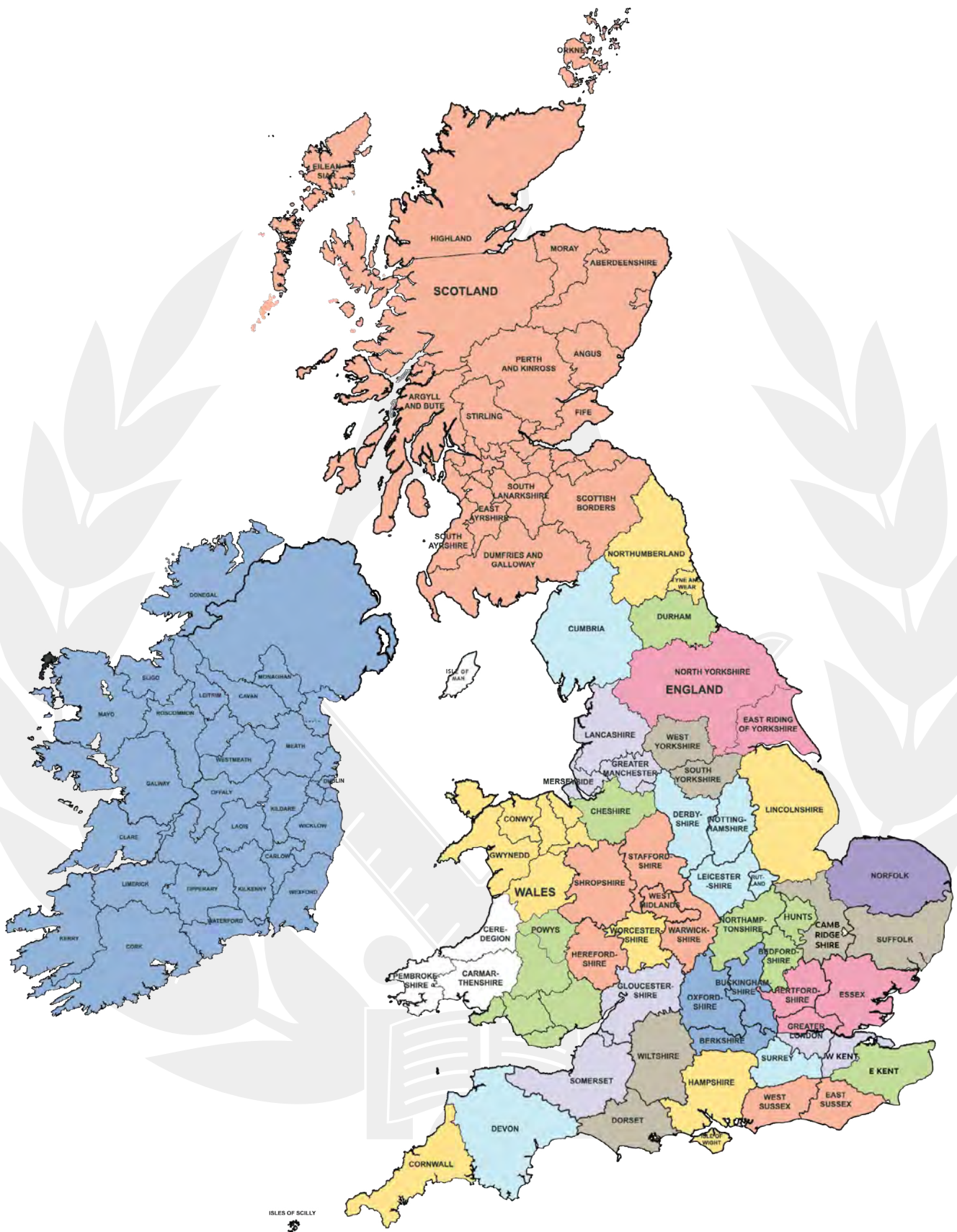






# Who and where

Here is a map and interactive table including links to current websites (where available) or Facebook Pages/emails...





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

# Motorcycling, Freemasonry and the Widows Sons MBA

Where to start? Let's try chronologically. Motorcycling or Biking as I will refer to it, inevitably came first, followed by Freemasonry and the Widows Sons MBA.

Biking for me started in 1964 when, at the age of 16 years, my parents gave me an Ariel Arrow 250 cc motorcycle complete with L plates for my birthday. They told me to be careful. My older brother gave me a second-hand crash helmet and told me how to use the controls of the motorcycle – and I was ready to ride. A different world.

I loved riding. I loved the freedom and the excitement of life on two wheels. Within a few months, I decided to take my motorcycle test so that I could ride a bigger bike. I rode to the Test Station and met the examiner who could not ride a motorcycle – he sent me round the block a couple of times and said that at some stage he would jump out in front of me which was my cue to make an emergency stop. I missed him and passed the test! Still a different world.

I sold the two stroke and bought a 650cc. Triumph Thunderbird. At around this time, I met

my now wife of over 50 years and happily, she loved motorcycling, at least as a pillion. We had one crash helmet between us, and Kay used to insist on wearing it in the rain. We were not able to afford suitable protective gear

Kay and I decided to get married and I suppose in a sense, we grew up! We were able to afford a motor car which was a much more acceptable form of transport as we were preparing for marriage – the bike was relegated to high days and holidays and after we married and children were on the horizon, the bike was sold due in part to financial reasons and in part to lack of use.

Moving on to Freemasonry. I was initiated in 1975 in Fareham Lodge in the Masonic Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight. I was one of two initiated together, which was the norm in those days. Definitely a different world.

I was particularly interested in the charitable side of Freemasonry, and as a junior Mason, I got involved in the Province's Masonic Festivals and all aspects of fundraising. Move on 20 years and I was a Grand Officer. I knew nothing about the Widows Sons MBA and was not







particularly interested in Biking. Or I didn't realise that I was.

Whilst chatting with a Masonic friend who was a keen Biker he mentioned the "Widows Sons" about which I knew nothing. Bikers and Freemasons – is there an affinity

between the two? I thought back to my carefree fun days on the Thunderbird, and my experience of Freemasonry in the intervening years. I concluded – Yes there clearly is, at least in my case. You need to become a member of the Craft to understand the passion which affects us, and so it is that you have to ride a bike to understand the passion which drives Bikers forward. "Understand" is probably the wrong word because just as a Freemason passionate about the Craft may never know why; so it is with bikers that the passion is to be experienced rather than understood.

I still had my bike licence, borrowed a 650 Honda, and a short ride re-ignited the spark, the passion. It was as if I had never been away. But how the world had changed. Two helmets (one for Kay as pillion) and leathers. I bought a Kawasaki ZX9R (Ninja) and we were away – freedom once again. We became fans of motorcycle racing and followed British Superbikes across the country.

In 1998 I was appointed Assistant Provincial Grand Master. Biking was just for fun – high days, holidays, and weekends - WSB at Donington and Monza, motor GP at Silverstone and Brno, and riding tours abroad, France, Spain, the Netherlands, the Alps, and Italy. Notwithstanding I remained a very busy active

Freemason but did not combine Freemasonry with Biking.

Move on to 2010 – I was installed as Provincial Grand Master. Could my two great passions in life, outside the family, namely Freemasonry and Biking be combined in some way? How wonderful that would be. I started to ride to Masonic meetings if the distance made it worthwhile. Provincial AGMs across the South of England from Cornwall to East Kent and as far north as Hereford and South Wales, and of course London for the QCs.

Two events then occurred. As Provincial Grand Master I got involved in social media, particularly Twitter, which enabled me to reach out to Freemasons beyond my Province. I also started to make surprise visits to Lodges accompanied only by my personal DC. The Lodge would open, and I would then arrive unannounced, and Demand admission. This was Tweeted by a brother in my Province who received a response from a brother in another Province asking whether the PGM attended with a full team or just a DC. When the brother in my Province responded "Just a DC" the Comment came back - "That's amazing – your PGM must be a NINJA."

As I rode a Kawasaki Ninja, and my grandson (who has since been initiated) raced a Ninja, I became known as the Ninja PGM. The Widows Sons became interested in this Provincial Grand Master, or the Ninja PGM, and the more I learnt about the organisation and its charitable activities connected to fun on a motor cycle, the more interested I became in the organisation. I wanted to know more – it seemed to me that the members shared my passions for Freemasonry and Biking and the more I learned about the Masonic Bikers Association, the more impressed I was.

As PGM I was very busy (!) and decided to defer making specific enquiries about the organisation – but I got involved regardless. I was happy to support the Organisation's charitable work, and the more I got "involved" the more impressed I was.

In 2016 I was asked by the SE Chapter to lead a ride from the Winchester Masonic Centre to





I am enormously proud to be part of the organisation. I have had great fun in the company of its members and have been involved in many Rides through Southampton City Centre at Christmas time on the "Toy Run," to Hospices and other organisations such as the Air Ambulance to make charity presentations, and the first part (only!) of long



the Naomi House Childrens Hospice and support the presentation of a cheque to the Hospice. After the presentation I was Ninja'd (!) by the SE Chapter – I was honoured to be appointed honorary member

Charity Rides to Cornwall and John O' Groats. Kay and I have also attended the Southern Party Weekend which was a Fund Raiser for the Air Ambulance. I have enjoyed my involvement enormously and will get further involved now that I have more time on my hands!



of the SE Chapter. I was delighted to accept the honour, acquired my Vest (as can be seen from the photos) and became Ninja PGM – formally! I supported the Chapter's charitable activities as best I could having regard to my other Masonic responsibilities, and I was delighted that a new Southern Chapter was to be formed to cover my Province. It was a real privilege to be a Founding Member of the new Chapter.

Inevitably what the Widows Sons do is enjoy riding their motorcycles in the company of likeminded individuals. I say "individuals" rather than "brethren" so as to include the Cornerstones, members who have yet to become Freemasons. Usually, the Rides involve Charity in some form – planning and execution of a complete variety of (and sometimes crazy!) ideas which produce funds to assist those less fortunate, which is of course an integral part of Freemasonry.





## Stonecutters Chapter Roundup

The year finished off with a great chapter christmas meal attended by 40 members where we finally got a chance to sit down and celebrate the hard work from over the last year, we managed to host some great events, give thousands to charity and all have a good time while doing it and supporting freemasonry along the way.

After a small break and a few impromptu rides over the winter in addition to our 2 natter nights we host a month we came back to our charity work and were asked by Spurgeons children's charity if we could supply a few Easter eggs for their Easter hunt. After a last-minute trip to Tesco we supplied the charity over 100 eggs and even got a few of extra for the staff that work there.



The best event after Easter is the Stonecutters Cider Rally. This was our second annual rally, I am pleased to say this year was even bigger and better than the last. The chapter were supported by members from East Kent and Pilgrims who turned up en mass to support this great event. Brotherhood at its best! After many ciders and some Dad Dancing from our IPP we managed to raise £600.00. the event was finished off with a Sunday roast at our local natter night venue.

By the time this is released Stonecutters will be proud joining members of the Wiltshire Summer Lodge No 9548. It may currently

be the smallest lodge in Wiltshire but with its dedicated members and the support we can give we hope for great things in the future. This month's meeting one of our very own cornerstones will go through his ceremony of initiation, a very special day for us indeed and one we have been looking forward to for a long time.



Over the last year our Dorset side of the chapter have been going from strength to strength and now has many dedicated members enough to be granted their own charter which they hope to at this year's national rally. They have had their first officers meeting and have a date for their AGM set, with support from the stonecutters this chapter has a great future ahead.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who has supported us over the last year our chapter has grown hugely and our members are like a family, many of our events are supported by wives and partners and many other chapters from far and wide. This truly is what the Widows Sons is about and I very much look forward to many great times ahead for the WSMBA

**Jamie Osborn**  
(aka *Ozzy*)  
President  
Stonecutters WSMBA





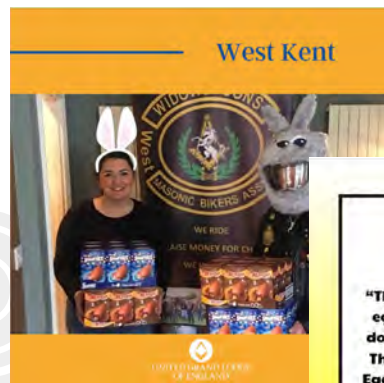
## West Kent Chapter Update

This Easter Widows Sons West Kent donated approximately 150 Easter Eggs to the Bromley Children and Families Forum (BCFF).

Through this forum the eggs were donated to a range of local Charities including: - Living On Bereavement Service (for bereaved Children), Bromley Well Young Carers, The Bromley Children Project, Bromley Mencap, Mottingham Foodbank, Biggin Hill Primary School, Crystal Palace Community Trust, Melvin Hall Community Group, Central Eltham Youth Project, Jusb Youth Club, Christians Against Poverty UK, Bromley and Croydon's Women's Aid and Endure Mentoring.

The President of WSWK said that by donating in this way many local charities and disadvantaged children benefit in this time of hardship for a lot of families. BCFF said "We are incredibly grateful to the support of West Kent Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association for supporting both our Annual Santa Run and Easter Egg Campaign".

This event was picked up and UGLE and posted on their Facebook page as well as in a press release.





## South East Chapter Roundup

Greetings Brethren, Bob Daniels, recently appointed VP to South East Chapter. Born into the Army family in 1962 first couple of years was somewhat turbulent with parents being moved from one place to another so establishing roots and a place to call home never materialized until much later in life. What it did however is demonstrate the close family ethos of the armed forces. Everyone knew everyone and your door was always open to your neighbour.

Being part of the WS community is much similar as there is always someone on the end of a phone in times of need or on your doorstep within a short space of time to assist you with any problem. The offers of help I received when my neighbour locked my motorcycle in his garage and forgot to leave a key when he went on holiday was immense. They ranged from the offers of a disc cutter, a 4x4 to pull the garage door off and many more. However, being a copper I considered these a little extreme and just waited for his return.

During my teens I was introduced to motorcycles and scared the local community on my Honda Express. The extreme speeds (29mph) caused havoc when I would cruise up the high street wearing my multi-coloured tank top, jeans in which you could fit at least four people in and my platform double brown shoes. My crash helmet was at least three sizes too big and the chin strap was no more than a frayed bit of cloth but all in all I was the 'baddest biker' in our street.

How times have changed. I now ride a Triumph Speedmaster with all the trimmings thanks to Gedges in Hastings. I have looked and found that close family ethos once again within Freemasonry and especially the WS. I consider family life to be important as life is short and you need to live as if each day is your last. That is why I am either out with my better half (Becks) or on my bike





meeting good friends. It was a pleasure to be appointed VP for the South East Chapter and I look to thoroughly enjoy my time with fellow bikers. It is said that I like a bacon sandwich occasionally. Well, what better way to get one than to ride out to some of the best cafés in the south and taste their wares.

After a successful Easter Egg Run this year, (thanks to all who donated and took part in the delivery of the eggs), Dean Johns and the brothers made sure that there are many happy smiling faces covered in chocolate within the South East including such places as St Hellier's Hospital for children in London. But the engines hardly cooled before the South East Chapter were back on the road. This time from the South Coast, our destination, London.

The Ace Café was on my bucket list of things to visit and so the call went out lead by Cornerstone Phillip Cragg of Sussex Chapter he had his work cut out. My bike decided that it no longer needed all its nuts and bolts to hold the windscreen on so, that was our first stop. Good job we had the expert mechanic John Guppy with us and has always got access to a spanner. It seemed like a two pack with the cruisers taking up the rear and the Isle of Man TT racers to the front. Dai Edwards showed off his amazing machine and the detailed paintwork which is to be admired. Once there, a good breakfast was had by all, and a meet took place with Brothers from the Shires WS and Kent WS. What a momentous day.

What was this, France calling, France calling. Alex Shoffren had arranged his annual break out of the UK to enjoy the sights and sounds of our neighbours in France. Tasty food, good wine and plenty of riding was the order of the two-day visit. Got mine booked for 2023 already. Get those names in early as places are going fast. Not only did all enjoy this year's trip but also raised £200 for this year's toy run. Great work gents. There are many events taking place this year and we need to capitalise on the good weather, looking after each other and making sure that regardless of where you are within the Southeast, there is a ride close to you, for example, Dave Oakenfold has arranged a great day out on the 14th May to Filching Manor and a private viewing of an extensive collection of vintage bikes and cars. This is followed by a planned lunch at a local hostelry which I'm sure will be a treat.



It's time for me to polish the bike, check the oil and burn some rubber so looking forward to meeting you on the road and remember, be proud of who you are and what your part of, WSMBA.

**Bob Daniels**  
(aka *Crazy Frog*)  
VP  
WSSE Chapter



## Worcestershire Chapter Update

Sunday 8th June saw us celebrate the first year of our Chapter, with our first AGM and traditional ride out. Thankfully, the weather this year was not like our inaugural drenching, and a very pleasant run to Dom's Bike Stop in Leominster, followed bike stop at Quatt, before heading back to where it all started at the Lenchford in Shrawley, for our AGM.



Reports all concluded a remarkably successful first year - almost tripling our membership from the original thirteen founders, including several new initiates to Freemasonry on the back of it – plus a productive season of ride outs and charity events all helped towards ensuring we can go from strength to strength.

Pleased to say I was re-elected as President, and our new VP, Philip (Toon) Abram was handed the reigns from our founding VP Philip (Scooter Boy) Underhill, who had to stand down due to other circumstances. Treasurer (Stuey) and Secretary (Deuce) remains as was, and we finally managed to fill our Charity and Almoner officers. This will allow our Charity activities to be expanded with a flourish, so watch this space!



Since the last edition of The Son, we have supported a funeral escort for Daisy, visited

several places on our regular 2nd Sunday ride, joined up with other chapters on the Bike4Life event, along with several local bike nights as the weather starts to get warmer!

If you're ever riding through, drop us a line :)



**Andy Philpott**  
(aka Monte)  
President  
Worcestershire Chapter



# Anglia Chapter Update

Anglia chapter and Norfolk chapter support new widowson member going into the chair of king Solomon





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.





## West Mids Chapter Update



Like most Chapters, West Mids have been busy since the lifting of Lockdown.

We were delighted at the great success of "Logans Run" with our very own Ian and Tony Armstrong riding to Scotland - and in doing so, with other appeals and some generous donations, raising £10,000 to buy a Wheelchair for young Logan - all this from Bro Ian who is undergoing Chemo

himself and quite poorly and fatigued at times. A fantastic effort.

We have been fortunate enough to attend several Lodge meetings, not only with our Lodge, Legge 2784 - but also visiting others as a group - often supporting Legge Brethren when the other Lodges have taken on ceremonies

for us. We have some new Bad Pennies, and have also been delighted to patch new and progressing members. A chance to make our VP "Pinn" work for his cake!



**A reminder to you all** - we are planning to host Tamworth Masonic Rooms for Ride to the Wall again and are aiming to book the same caterer for Sausage Butties, Bacon Butties, Teas and Coffeee.





# BEDA Chapter Update

## John Bunyan Lodge

Beda attended the John Bunyan lodge, to support fellow brethren and BEDA brothers in a special evening. The brethren at John Bunyan lodge were carrying out a triple passing to the 2nd degree.

The three candidates were part of the UGLE Universities scheme. Provincial Grand Master RW Bro Anthony P Henderson, an honorary BEDA member road name Akela, was in attendance. The Worshipful Master on the day was Beda's WBro Chris Handley.



The evening was made extra special by the attendance of Sir David Wootton who had served

as Senior Grand Warden of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London and was Past Grand Sword Bearer in 2012. Since March 2014, he has been Assistant Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.



A great night was had by all, we also raised money for the MCF

## Great Provincial Ride Out – Bedfordshire

On Wed 6th April 2022 five of Beda's finest met the APGM of Warwickshire, WBro David Greenwood, as part of his Great Provincial Ride out at the London Gliding Club in Dunstable

and escorted him through the Bedfordshire Countryside to the Provincial HQ in Kempston. After a spot of lunch, he was escorted towards the Cambridgeshire border for the remainder of his quest. On top of the £500 donation offered by the Province, Beda also donated £100.



## Widows Sons Lodge Consecration

On Saturday 9th April 2022 seven members of Beda attended the Consecration of the Widows Sons Lodge No 10011 in Hull.







All seven members of Beda Chapter have joined the lodge with Chris Handley and Jason Rickels being founder members. Jeff Boote, Peter Nunn, Mike Glenister, Adam Smith and James Montague became joining members. Plans are well on track for the lodge to meet in Bedfordshire on Saturday 27th August and details will be advertised when they are confirmed.

### Fundraising Run

At the beginning of April, Stuart Prouse (aka Goulash) and Daniel Furnell (Son of Tinkerbell) ran the London Landmarks Half Marathon.

Both were raising money for two deserving charities – Stuart raising money for Guide Dogs and Daniel for GOSH – and Beda donated to their fundraising efforts. Daniel finished in 1hr 46 minutes in 1402nd place. Stuart finished in 2hrs 24 seconds in 3834th place. Over 17000 people took part so a great showing by both.

### The Eggeclent Easter Egg Run

On 14th April, on behalf of Bedfordshire Freemasons, eight Beda members made their annual delivery of Easter Eggs and TLC Teddies the Luton and Dunstable Hospital Trust and then to Bedford Hospitals.





## Ride Outs

Ride out started up again in March. An almost full year of rides are in the calendar. The first long run of the year was to Blaze Inn Saddles, west of Banbury in Oxfordshire, and sixteen bikes set out on an overcast morning. This was the largest group for a long time and road etiquette soon came back. Some excellent roads and a fine cuppa and brunch awaiting thirsty and hungry souls.



Meet the neighbours – On Saturday 7th May, Beda “Met the Neighbours” including Icenis, West Kent and Midlands’ chapters at the Ace Café and enjoyed the camaraderie, meeting new and old faces and of course Ace fry-ups. The sun shone and Beda had a great ride.



## New Lodge Initiates

Beda was very proud when their Associate member, or “Clanger”, Stuart Prouse (Goulash) was initiated into John Bunyan Lodge on 19th March. The meeting saw a good turnout of Beda members in their cuts.



## Community Support and volunteering

Our Secretary, Peter Nunn (Nunny Bear), is a very devoted Blood Biker with SERV Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. During the pandemic Peter and colleagues were busier than usual transferring essential time-critical items between hospitals, hospices and pathology departments and delivering baby-milk and other items to end recipients. Our Kevin Chapman (Plates) and Paul Byrne (Wiggi) have both joined SERV and working with Peter in this vital and admirable service.



We are supporting

SERV as the nominated charity this year with the target of helping to provide a dedicated support vehicle. Find out more about SERV Herts and Beds Blood bikers here: <https://www.servhertsbeds.org.uk>

## New Members

Beda is seeing good interest from new potential members. They follow our social and ride out attendance introductory process before being approved and patched, this quarter we have been delighted to welcome three new members. Steve and Emma Winser (Anvil and Emu) and Mark Winter-Goodman (Pugwash)

## Newly qualified bikers

Like all Widows Sons Chapters, we are inclusive and has been delighted to welcome newly qualified bikers Steve and Emma Winser (Anvil and Emu) and to congratulate Billie Simons (Silly Billy) on passing her test.



## Parisi Chapter Update

The Parisi Chapter of the Widows Sons (Yorkshire N&E) have just got home from a fortnight exploring Spain and Portugal, thousands of photos taken, here are a few to whet your appetite. What a great time we've had, excellent food, fantastic company, and fun in the sun. Over 2000 miles completed and bonds of friendship extended even further.

We met up along the way with the brethren of the Pilgrims WSMBA and the Portuguese WSMBA too. Everyone a pleasure to meet.



The climax of the trip was a visit to the town of Tomar to look at the absolutely incredible Knights Templar castle that sits dominant looking down on the town. This castle only took nine years to build and with the size of it and the intricacies of the stonework you have to be amazed at the speed in which it was constructed. The whole Templar experience on this fantastic holiday is worth your time if you like associated history. If you do, then like Nike say, 'just do it'







We stayed in monasteries, historic hotels, modern hotels, had some hotels exclusively to ourselves, all were in historic locations and bursting with stories to hear and relics to explore.

We had great weather (except the first day) and enjoyed every second of the holiday.

Our next adventure will be to the Netherlands in June. Naturally we will report on this in the next edition of The Son.

Add to this we have also just opened the new Widows Sons Lodge 10011 and provided a brand new blood bike-and you will see that we have been very busy indeed.



## Sussex Chapter Update

Since our formation in July last year, the Sussex Chapter has been at full throttle with a stream of rideouts, socials, natter nights and charity events. 2022 was always planned to be the time to consolidate on the progress we had made in the relatively short time since our conception.

As our members and their bikes slowly emerged from their winter hibernation, regular monthly Natter Nights resumed, alternating venues between the Fox & Hounds, Haywards Heath and the Bull's Head, Boreham Street. These were important to integrate new members, to plan our events, and decide how best to support our two chosen charities: The Matthew 25 Mission, a homeless charity based in Eastbourne and SERV Sussex.

### Membership

Membership continues to grow with 7 new Widows Sons and 2 Cornerstones joining our ranks in the last few months, it was decided to utilise this new pool of talent by restructuring our officers. Karl Hopper-Young (President), Dan McLusky (Vice President), Allon Gilbert (Secretary), Mark Thomas (Treasurer), Simon Rideout (Road Captain) and Charles Napper (Charity Steward).

### Rolling Thunder UK 2022

Good Friday 15th April 2022, heard the roar of bikes thundering through the streets of Central London as part of Operation Thunderbolt, supporting Veterans in their fight for justice.



Two of our members, Karl Hopper-Young and Dan McClusky left home at 7am to make the journey and join several thousand other bikers from all round the country. Karl & Dan were really pleased to meet up with members from Surrey, South East and Shires Chapters.



It was a great day of riding in London on a beautiful sunny day which slowly took its toll inside the leathers. The day almost went off without incident, until Karl literally bumped into a member from the South East Chapter - a minor collision on

a roundabout resulting in a slight kink in his banana bike.

In true biker style, the intrepid duo, along with Steve Dixon (Surrey) and his wife Dawn, retreated to McDonald's on the Wandsworth roundabout for some well earned sustenance before returning home after a long, hot but thoroughly enjoyable day and a good night's sleep was called for as they, and their bikes, need to be shipshape for the Easter Egg Run on Sunday (17 April).

### Easter Eggs Run 2022

14 members and Cornerstones of the Sussex Chapter assembled in Hailsham on Easter Sunday morning, 17th April to pack and securely strap their cargo of over 200 Easter Eggs to their bikes before setting off to deliver them along with Amazon vouchers to the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Brighton and then onto the Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead.

Just as they prepared to depart, Karl, Dan and his daughter Maddie were invited to an impromptu interview live on Hailsham FM talking about the philosophy of the Widows







Sons in general but in particular the Sussex Chapter.

En route the group were joined by other members and as is mandatory on these occasions, rests were made for nutriment in the form of bacon butties on brown.

Stops were made at the pre-planned destinations and the eggs were gratefully received by the respective staff. Subsequently the Chapter has received heartfelt letters of thanks from all those visited. A highly successful day, beautiful weather and great camaraderie. The riders returned home safe and sound with the exception of Dan, who was let down by his 'trusty' Harley.

### Support for Warwickshire Riders

A lovely time was spent by our President, Karl Hopper-Young and Vice President Dan McLusky riding to a meeting in support of the PGM of Sussex, Christopher Moore and his APGM Geoffrey Draper. There they met with David Greenwood, AGPM Warwickshire and fellow brethren and bikers from Warwickshire as part of a tour of the all UK Provinces in aid of their 2023 Festival.

The meeting took place at the Horsham Masonic Centre on 5th April 2022 and was followed by a lunch which gave our representatives from the Sussex Chapter the opportunity to socialise and form links with members from Sussex



Motorcycling Lodge No. 9871, some of whom also volunteer with SERV Sussex.

The Provincial Communications Officer, Mike Alderson, was in attendance with the Mobile Information Tent Unit for photo opportunities, a facility which was in great demand.

Karl & Dan were delighted to present the APGM of Warwickshire with a WSMBA Sussex Chapter badge and pin,



and returned home with heads held high after a wonderful day out.

### Charities

It was decided early on in the year to set up an online raffle to support both of our chosen charities: SERV Sussex and the Matthew 25 Mission whose volunteers aim to support people trying to rebuild broken lives, especially those with life-threatening addiction, loneliness, bereavement, unemployment, homelessness, offending and more. They provide a listening ear and sympathetic pastoral care with information and advice as well as provision of food, clothing and basic necessities. Helping many to find their way back into society again. <https://app.galabid.com/servandmatthew25/register>

### Future Events

We are really looking forward to, once again, working with, the Holywell Club (Sussex Light Blue Club), to stage our third Clay Shoot on the 11th September. This year we hope to make this more of a family affair with food and music. Also on the horizon is the lee Rigby ride, having a presence at the Eastbourne AirBourne, a visit to the Masonic Museum in Canterbury and of course the Christmas Toy Run.



## Surrey Chapter Update

Hi all now the Sun is warming the tarmac it is good to see more bikes coming out of hibernation and this in turn helps us keep active.

By the time this gets to press we at Surrey will be over a year old as one of the newer WSMBA Chapters, and an interesting year has been had.

### AGM:

So being that young we have also now held our first AGM and reported back on our all but year in being and voted in our officers for the ensuing 12 months.

Whilst I tried to suggest others were more worthy of the presidency it was to no avail, so they have me for year 2 (honoured & humbled to do so)



**RIDE CAST**  
**Return of the Gremlin**

**Video episode  
now available!**





Also staying the same are VP – Miyagi / Secretary – Chef / Road Captain – Vampire / Webmaster – Zinger

Changes: Our Treasurer – Godfather due to personal upheaval over the last year has had to step down and his successor is Hagrid currently sent to America for 6 weeks maintaining aircraft.

We realised the commitment and time it takes as officers to maintain stability and have also now created two further roles to act both as successor posts and share the existing workload.

Recruitment officer – Stalledit who will work alongside the Secretary

Events coordinator – Milo who will work alongside the Road Captain

It is great to see the group building on its success and forming into a recognised pillar of the Surrey Society, which is helping promote our causes and in turn grow the WSMBA membership



## Easter eggs and Easter rides:

### Christophers Shooting Star Hospice:

April 17th, we supported St Christopher shooting Star hospice Guildford by delivering eggs, art & craft goodies, and monies to them.

Miyagi & Savage again opened their doors to start the morning with some fine bacon



sausage and omelette baps. Stands up after a brief from vampire and we took a sunny ride to the hospice where we met our car full of goodies and two other members making a total of 17 in attendance.



On arrival we were as always made extremely welcome and warmly greeted by happy and enthusiastic staff and residents, and a rather large unexpected wabbit on a one wheeled skateboard, not wanting to miss an opportunity as the wabbit was there to entertain the children I invited the wabbit into our picture shoot and we worked in harmony to entertain all.



We were honoured to present the Christopher team with around £750 worth of eggs, art & craft goodies and a cheque for £250 which has been made possible through our collective begging and some amazing donations from others in the community.

We have a second ride planned /done

### St Helliers / Queen Mary's hospital:

April 29th whilst low on numbers being a Friday with only 4 bikes, Myagi, Milo myself and our venerable Chairman and a support car driven by Savage we made an impression and our donations were gratefully received by the staff and those in their care, this is a cause we will build on going forwards, in total £600 in eggs art & crafts goodies and a cheque for £150 were presented on the day.



### Donation of eggs to SE Easter Egg ride:

Miyagi & Zinger took a ride to meet SE and deliver some of our eggs to them as we had more than enough, followed a week or so later by attending the SE ride where the eggs were greatly received.

### Warwickshire province ride:

We arranged to meet the Middlesex Masonic contingent of bikers "not WSMBA yet" and rode with them to Cole Court Masonic Centre where the Warwickshire riders presented them with a piston, which they initially were going to give to me in recognition of the WSMBA support, I rightfully declined this as it was not our place or ride, which was well appreciated so they gave us some goodies to auction off or donate as we saw fit. We then accompanied



the riders into Surrey to their hotel prior to the Surrey presentation that evening which we were unable to attend.

This was then followed up a week later by a curry night made up of Surrey, Shires and the middlesex riders and a good night was had.



### Other things:

As well as a couple of decent ride outs over the last few months to places like Littlehampton for fish & chips by the sea followed by a ride to Harley Guildford to escort our chairman there so he could change his inner tube after a little puncture on route, a free bacon roll at moto legends Guildford, a breakfast meet at Triumph West London and the obligatory rides to Loomies & Rykas cafes we are getting out and about.

Next up is planning for the upcoming events in our area such as Warlingham fair which has been supported by WSMBA in the past so a big shout out to other local chapters for support as it takes shape.

### And finally, a little bit of self-indulgence from me:

I was honoured last November to receive a letter from UGLE in recognition for my masonic contributions and have now been given the opportunity to hold an active office for the year as a Metropolitan Grand Chapter Steward, something I could not have done without the help of many other masons over the years so thank you.

S+F Yours

BlackBeard [www.ws-surrey.co.uk](http://www.ws-surrey.co.uk)



## 'Eh Up Me Duck it's the East Midlands Chapter'

### Meet SOLOMON

He is the 'East Midlands Chapter Bear' He travels with us to Events and Rides Pillion with his Carer Brother John 'Grumpy' Perridge EMC Road Captain



### EMC Brother in a BIG chair

Congratulations from EMC to Paul 'Scaffman' Rayne on Becoming the Worshipfull Master at Selig Lodge



### EMC Riding together

We have been practicing 2MDO (Second Man Drop Off) training and extra hazard awareness when performing the task. Our Brother 'Andy 'Hoggy' Bridger from Durham wrote a Riding guidelines booklet that explains the group riding methods and 2MDO as well as roles and riders responsibilities. He will be more than happy to supply anyone with this as this has been accepted as the Widows Sons recognised riding formation / procedure. Oh! It always ends at a Brothers Hostelry for refreshment.



### EMC support Local Hospitals

EMC are pleased to say we are still supplying 'Hospital Boxes' in association with Derbyshire Motorcycle Lodge 9950 to the Childrens Wards at the Derby Royal Hospital and Burton Queens Hospital for those parents of children who have been rushed into hospital and stay with the children often with no food and out of shop hours.

You will see below the tremendous donation from Walkers the East Midlands snack gurus to help with these boxes.

Members of EMC and friends continue to add to the collection every month, a tin here a packet there its really quite easy and 'Its what we do'





## EMC at Easter

An Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday was arranged by Bad Pennies Keith & Josie Ball. The nice weather meant a good turnout. £52 was raised. Kids had loads of fun.

So did the big Kids eh Gunny. Peter 'Gunny' Gilbert is our wonderful Almoner who gets involved with everything.



Left Over eggs were taken to Rainbows Hospice and received with great smiles and 'Solomon' even got a hug from the fantastic nurses.



## Big Weekend Out in the Smoke

Brothers from the Provinces travelled the 100 miles or so down to that there London on the 7th of May. Setting off in lovely sunshine in the beautiful East Midlands the weather got colder and damper the closer we got to the Capital. However, we were warmed by a hearty breakfast at the Ace Café and also the warm welcome we got from our brethren from the BEDA, Icenis, Surrey & East Kent. It was great to say hello and catch up. So, after being watered and fed and the obligatory group photo we said our good

byes and set off to our hotel to get smartened up.

The weather was much improved and some of the group went over to Grand Lodge for a mooch around, others enjoyed the sunshine and took a stroll by the Thames. All involved having a few beers.

We were again joined by members and family from BEDA & Icenis for the main event of the weekend, a visit to the Tower of London for a tour and to witness the 'Ceremony of the Key's', an event that has been carried out at 22:00 every day for over 700 years.



Footsteps echo in the darkness. The sentry cries out, 'Halt, who comes there?' The Yeoman Warder replies, 'The keys.' 'Whose keys?' 'Queen Elizabeth's keys.' 'Pass then, all's well.' Aside from the monarch's name, this is the exact exchange that has been spoken for centuries and forms part of the traditional 'locking up' of the Tower of London. Set amidst the mighty battlements of this ancient historic fortress, the Ceremony of the Keys is one of the oldest surviving enactments of its kind. Although the monarch may no longer reside at the Tower, the Crown Jewels and many other invaluable objects still do, therefore its importance is still relevant today





It was a privilege to be there and see this ancient tradition. After the Ceremony we retired to the Yeoman Warders bar, one of the most exclusive and the second cheapest (£3 a pint) in London. The Yeoman Warders ran a raffle with all proceeds going to charity, including Masonic charities as many of them are on the square. The top prize, a lovely decanter engraved with the Yeoman Warders crest, was rather fittingly won by our President, Tricky



On Sunday morning, in glorious sunshine we crawled through the traffic congestion of London to the Bike Shed for a super breakfast, again being joined by other Brethren and our leader, Greg and his good lady. After which it was time to head back up the M1, and I have to say it great when you see those road sign that say, 'The North'. All agreed it was a fantastic weekend and I am sure we will visit the south and do it all again one day soon.

### **Widows Son Unveils Plaque at the Derby Royal Hospital**

A delegation of representatives from Derbyshire and Staffordshire Freemasons met to unveil the NHS plaque thanking Freemasonry and showing that Freemasonry is working with the NHS.

Both Ian Copstake the Deputy Provincial Both Ian Copestake the Deputy Provincial Grand Master & Michael Hitchcock Provincial Grand Charity Steward are with Steve Frixou (Assistant to the Provincial Charity Steward). Steve is also an active member of the East Midlands Chapter. Steve is second from the right.

Steve took the opportunity whilst communicating with the Royal Hospital charity team to remind all present of the Widows Sons involvement with the hospital. The Widows Sons are proud to be supporting the Derby Royal Hospital with an initiative on behalf of both Freemasonry & the Widows Sons. As previously mentioned the East Midlands Chapter provide food and toiletries for parents of the children who are in for treatment.

Sometimes the parents can be there for many hours and the supplies help them get through. The boxes are replenished every week by volunteers from the East Midlands Chapter.



### **EMC donations**

£250 to the PGB Ukraine appeal.

£120 for the Blood Bikers refreshments - one off payment to cover a year\*

£250 towards the 3rd Sandiacre scout and guide group for replacement equipment and / security fencing of the meeting venue

£250 towards Preschool345 - Providing preschool help to children with learning difficulties, based in Nottingham

£100 for Together Playgroup in Mansfield.

Together Playgroup is based in Mansfield. At the moment around 16 to 20 Children gather with their Mums in this safe environment.

The catchment area for many of the children attending confronts many social difficulties.

Within moments Playgroup you are in a dodgy area known for drugs and criminal activity.

The Together Play Group is one attempt to offer young Children a place where for a couple of hours each week they can be safe, enjoy good activities and hopefully grow up knowing the value and virtues of Freemasonry, maybe becoming future Masons.

### **A Widows Son**

*Behold a Widows Son, a Mason filled with care;  
Whose persona and actions do declare;  
The world and ways of Free Masonry.  
Fair for every man to read and see;  
But few men there are secrets known;  
Within a Craft and a Club a Widows Son is  
Shown.*



## Bister Lodge No 8883

On Friday 11th March 2022 a delegation of Widows Sons, descended on Bister Lodge No 8883 in the Province of North Wales to carry out a demonstration of the first degree ceremony.



**RIDE CAST**

**Return of the Gremlin**

**Video episode now available!**





## Wyvern Chapter WSMBA - Spring 2022

Here we are, already into May 2022 and, thankfully, the riding season is back in full swing in Somerset, Gloucestershire and Bristol.

We are very pleased to report that Wyvern Chapter continues to go from strength to strength with new brothers attaining their patches as WS but also bringing new masons into Mayflower Lodge No7241.

Monthly breakfast meetings, on the first **Spray** of each month, at The Pitstop, near Bridgwater, have proved very popular, we've even been joined by our neighbours from Devon, Pilgrims Chapter, who seemed to have a great time too.



The third Saturday is our monthly rideout and, so far this year, we have had visits from Pilgrims, Stonecutters and Southern Chapters at rides through the Wye Valley, down to the south coast, over to the very west coast of Somerset and, or next ride, will see us heading East towards Swindon in aid of the Air Ambulance.

Charitable donations continue with us having supported a number of local charities so far this year and funds are still building for the President's chosen charity, The Royal Marines Benevolent Fund.

In other news, our Treasurer, Bro Daniel 'Tofu' Harding attained the Chair of King Solomon attended by **a super** of the Chapter as well as our Sgt at Arms, WBro Harry 'Riff' Blinston receiving his first Provincial Honours as Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies for Somerset.

The Chapter is looking forward to a great summer of rides and falls including the National and Ride to the Wall. We look forward to seeing you all soon, ride safe brethren.





## East Kent Chapter Update

The East Kent Widows Sons have had a busy month, with various activities spreading us across the country and indeed the UK!

We had a great turn out at the Easter Egg run...



We delivered over four hundred eggs to our three chosen charities, had sixteen bikes with twenty-four members in attendance. ...another enjoyable day out for the WSEK crew!



We started the month of with a great breakfast run organised by our very own Chippy; taking in the delights of south east Kent and ending up at an exceptionally good eatery which is frequented by some well-known rockers of the past... Cuthbert to enlighten WSEK!

This was followed by a ride to the Kent Chrome and Cruiser Show organised by the Kent Fire Brigade, very well attended with hundreds of bikes of all types in attendance...

Patching in new members... on the ride we held our first 'patching in' ceremony we saw two new members, Babysitter and @@@@ receive their patches in the time honoured EK way...!



I say this with tongue in cheek as we have borrowed this ceremony from Banger and Iceni chapter. Its been tweaked a little to best suit EKWS needs but in essence it's the same... thanks fellas!

As a foot note we also saw the Pilgrims do a patching in ceremony, and a presidents handover ceremony at the cider rally which was truly special event for all attending... well done guys, awesome for the candidates, and the attendees alike!





We attended the Cider Rally organised by the stone cutters down in the beautiful county of Dorset... there was me thinking Kent had the best scenery in the south... waiting for the incoming abuse....!

Suffice to say we all had a fun time; the Pilgrims turned up mass and along with the EKWS and the Stone Cutters we had a great time... I believe the bar was still rocking at 5am...!

This is a venue for 2023 that EKWS will be attending...

We had the honour of escorting in the APGM from Worcestershire who was riding to different counties with his support team. Nine members from East Kent escorted him to The Graveny Lodge in Whistable where he was attending.

3G, President, gave a very good account at the FB of how the Widows Sons started, how it works day to day and its mission working along side Freemasonry, promoting the craft and how motorcycling can be a very good way of getting people interested in both...?





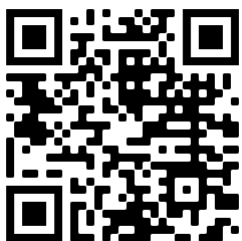
# Next issue

The Spring issue of **THE Son** will be published on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022

**THE Son** will be published on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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: [news@wsmba.uk](mailto:news@wsmba.uk) no later than **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August** 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>

