

# THE Son

Issue 7  
Autumn 2022

In Memoriam  
HRH Queen Elizabeth II

21<sup>st</sup> April 1926  
—  
8<sup>th</sup> September 2022



**Nearly six months in the role already;** doesn't time fly. The successful National Rally 2022 is behind us, and Hull 2023 is already being touted for support. Please help make it even more successful by getting the details in your diaries and distributed to the membership ASAP. It will be hosted by Parisi, Ridings and Lincs Imps the last weekend in July, 28-30th (2023) at Hull Ionians RUFC, Brantingham Park, HU15 1HX. Full details to be circulated later. Others will submit articles on last month's rally so apart from extending my thanks and gratitude to all involved I would like to just concentrate on a few subjects.

First the honour and privilege of handing over the PGB charters to their respective Presidents. Prior to the Chartering the rally tent stood in

silence to departed merit, as we all have lost, or know of someone, who has lost a loved one since the last rally, and in particular W. Brothers "Old Bob" Wood, founder SE Chapter, and Graham Taylor, President Elect Quarrymen.

Eight Charters were presented to rapturous applause. Many already held e-charters due to the pandemic and this was the first opportunity to get their hands on the real thing. The brethren from the Netherlands took the opportunity to take over the stage to demonstrate their delight, finishing off with their ceremonial salute, to the applause of all present. Our first chartering of a Chapter in a Grand Lodge in Amity with UGLE. The final presentation to Dorset Province was collected by Brother Tony Collins/Charity Steward, on behalf of the Quarrymen's Primus President Elect, Graham Taylor, (RIP) who unfortunately passed a week before the Rally whilst out on his motorcycle. The Quarrymen will honour his memory for the first year with the VP, Paul Butler, standing in for Graham. All the chapter's respective teams have worked hard to become established within their Provinces and now their President is the custodian of a charter signed by the standing Presidents of the PGB. A proud moment to cherish and we all wish you success and congratulate you for growing the WSMBA.

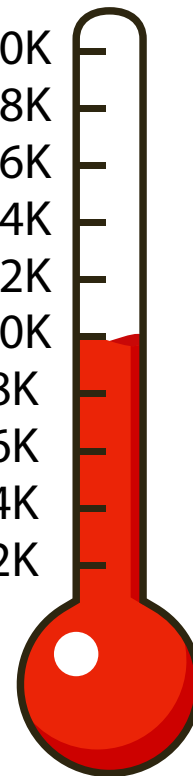
The WSMBA now has 32 Chapters, bound by our Constitution, and governed by the PGB, being the 32 Presidents. To those who have joined our ranks, and those already established, please do not rest on your laurels but strive to inspire your Chapters to grow the membership and at the same time never lose sight that it must be FUN too. The United Grand Lodge of England has 48 Provinces within England, Wales, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man so we still have some way to go to achieve "one chapter per province". Who will be next?



Whilst still on the stage I presented Peter with a signed "Thank You" card for 11 years of stewardship through which we have grown in stature, the obligatory bottle of JD to help numb the experience, and the generous whip round from the Chapters (£2100), for him and Amy to have a break on us.

Although the Rallies are no longer about raising money but having FUN, the Rally Organising Chapters made a profit of £6000 from the proceeds and sale of merchandise. This has culminated in two very significant donations, £1500 to Blood Bikes and £4500 to Lifelites. The impact of this significant donation to the WSMBA Platinum Partners Pledge to Lifelites to raise £20,000 in four years means we are now looking for a smaller donation from the rest of the Chapters. Instead of £161 per annum for four years, we are now looking for £90 for four years. If your Chapter has not got behind this appeal to date can I ask you to please take it up with your members so we can deliver on our pledge. Our website already sports the Platinum Certificate as a sign of good faith. Donations to: sort code 18 00 02, Account number 02585235, Account name The Grand Charity, Relief Chest Reference: E1072. If we can do this in one year that would be awesome, but it needs us all to contribute what we can. The next big event to help get to target will be the President's Ball in January 2023 hosted by East Kent. Details will be circulated in due course.

£20K  
£18K  
£16K  
£14K  
£12K  
£10K  
£8K  
£6K  
£4K  
£2K



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)*

## The Dorset Quarrymen Roundup

The name THE QUARRYMEN is based on the Dorset Connections to the Limestone Quarries etc. throughout the County as well as the close association to and derivative of our mother Chapter, THE STONECUTTERS. As many may know The Quarrymen was the first name used by The Beatles, apart from my name being Paul, we don't have a John, George or Ringo so any similarity is purely coincidental.

With the growing number of their members coming from the Dorset area, a concerted effort was made by the Wiltshire based STONECUTTERS to promote and instigate a stand-alone Dorset Chapter. This took a few years of sterling effort by 'Ozzy' Osborn, Andy Botha and Rob Robster amongst others, to formulate; Dorset members came and went, until eventually a small group of regular Dorset attendees formed the Chapter and the future started looking promising.

These first 15 members, who wear the FIRST 15 patch, formed what was to become the QUARRYMEN.

Whilst the Masonic Province of Dorset exists, there also exists a rather strange historical anomaly that due to 1970's boundary changes, the towns of



Bournemouth and Christchurch changed Counties from Hampshire to Dorset, but masonically they still remain in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Province.

This anomaly also gives us the benefit of attracting members from both Provinces who have a strong 'Dorset' connection.

The Quarrymen are blessed with eager and keen Officers and members. Indeed, Bro. Tony 'Tank' Pereira came along to his first Natter Night, seeking to find out what The Widows Sons was all about and left having been voted in as Secretary. Note to all, never make eye contact when a



volunteer is required! Tony had no experience as a Secretary and quickly obtained help and guidance from more experienced Widows Sons secretaries. Since then he proven to be an absolute stalwart as a Secretary and we are lucky to have him.

Prior to the National Rally, the 'soon-to-be' Quarrymen members took part in a number events culminating in The Distinguished Gentlemen's Ride in Poole. 600+ riders took part and our Media and Comms. Officer Phil Smith, became the top fundraiser for the whole event.

THE QUARRYMEN having been duly formed in principle, was given its charter at the National Rally in 2022.

The joy of us receiving our charter has of course been tempered with the sad fact that W.Bro. Graham Taylor, one of the First 15 founding members, and who was elected as our first President passed away very unexpectedly. Graham had been taking a break during a motorcycle ride with friends when he suffered a fatal stroke. This happened only a few weeks ago

and just prior to the National Rally where he was ready to attend and receive our Charter.

Our Charity officer Tony Collins attended and received the Charter on Grahams behalf.

The Quarrymen and other Widows Sons remain stunned, Graham truly lived respected and died regretted.

His legacy will continue via myself and the other officers and members. Despite having only just gained our Charter we currently have 18 full and active members, 3 cornerstones and 5 pending applications. We have two social Natter Nights planned a month, one for the Quarrymen and another to remain in touch with our brothers in the Stonecutters. The future seems bright.

Our diary is being planned for an active 2023 and we look forward to seeing our WS Brothers at Rallies and Events next year.

Keep it shiny side up brothers.

**Paul Bishop**

V.P. Quarrymen



## The Cheshire Widows Sons Roundup

The CWSMBA members who attend this year's rally have asked me to sincerely thank all those involved in the setting-up and organisation of the event. They enjoyed the gathering and camaraderie from all those who attended. Thank you.

The Cheshire Widows Sons had their AGM earlier in the year and Guy Story was elected as the new Vice President. Below is Guy receiving his VP Patch from the President Pete Wright with some of the Patched members in the background.



The CWSMBA visited the Knife Angel whilst it was on display in Birkenhead Park, following our monthly breakfast.

An impressive sight indeed, but we looked back with nostalgia to the days we got our "Knife badge" whilst in the Scouts!



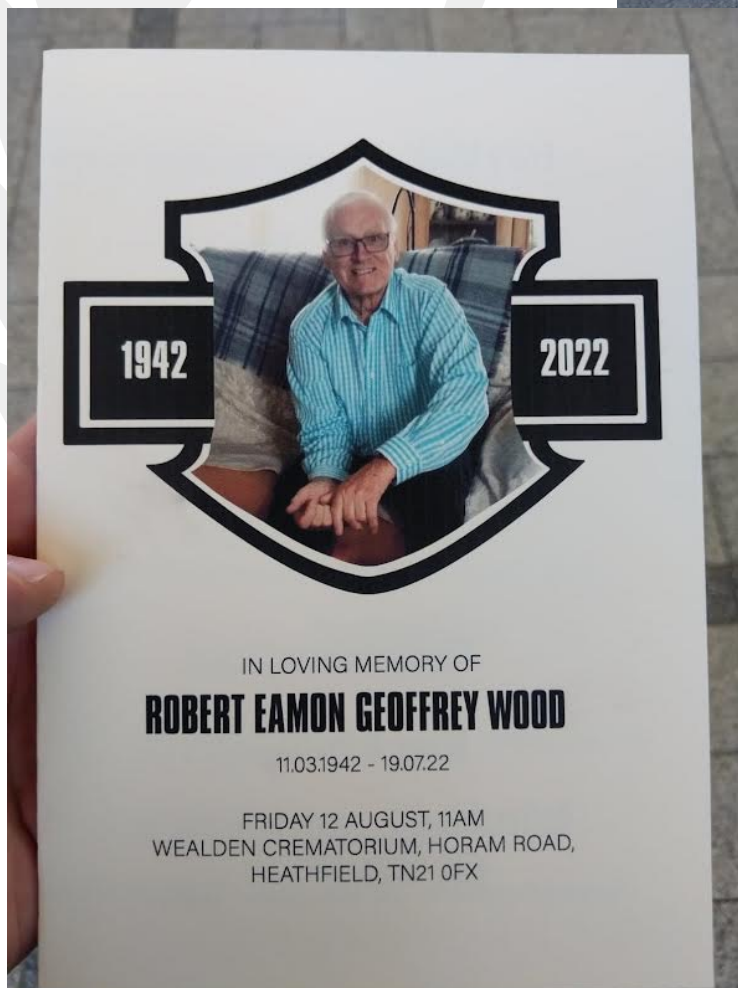
## Farewell to “Old Bob”

### Robert Eamon Geoffrey Wood

On Friday 12th August 2022 members of the WSMBA from across the UK escorted Bob “Old Bob” Wood on his final ride to the Grand Lodge Above, having earned his chrome wings on the 19th July 2022.

Some 60 bikes made up the cortege to the crematorium and fittingly the “Tail end Charlie” was Bob. The escort being make up of what he represented, Freemasons and Motorcycles. The high regard that he was held, being demonstrated in the attendance of so many friends, family and freemasons to pay their last respects

Bob was a founder member of the SE Chapter and was the Treasurer until 2020 when he handed over the task. His



enthusiasm for the Widows Sons was boundless and was a wise counsel to those who sought his advice. His legacy is what the WSMBA has achieved, particularly in the South. He broke down barriers and established friendships with those who would have prevented the formation of Chapters in the South. He established links with other clubs in the South and put the WSMBA on the map.

Farewell dear friend and I do hope that chrome doesn't rust!!

SMIB

Gavin



## East Kent Widows Sons Roundup

Hello from the South East where the weather has been off the scale and the hose pipe ban came into effect about 2 hours after the hottest recorded day since time began – or so they tell us!

Still, it was good to get out and play in the glorious sunshine the last few months have given, long may it continue!

July saw the EKWS out in force attending various functions in and around the county.

Notably we attended the now annual Duke of Kent treasure hunt that saw members criss crossing from Kent into Sussex and then back again! The day ended with a BBQ that was there annual Lodge get together for all the attendees/family and lodge members. An amazing £1,000 raised for Prostate cancer and the Stroke Association – well done guys!

We had another two advancements in the Mark, 100 of Hoo Lodge that we have bought back from the despair of it having to hand in its warrant!

The lodge now looks to be firmly back on its feet, and it seems that many of the WSEK are dutifully waiting their turn to be advanced...

All is good in the WSEK world it seems; long may it continue to be so. We look forward to another year under the expert guidance of our re-elected President 3G and his merry band of officers!



The WSEK were asked to attend the PGP and we given the honour of riding into the event and were greeted by a fanfare of applause; genuinely think that some of the older brethren thought the event had been taken over by some mad marauding biker gang – how far from the truth could they be?



Our AGM was well attended by the East Kent members. It was preceded by the usual breakfast run out, and on this particular occasion no one got lost – which is very usual for us as it seems our president has a sat nav that has a mind of its own!

The members all convened at Strode Park where we were greeted to a welcome cold drink on arrival and way too many sandwiches after we had concluded the meeting!



An enjoyable day was had by all the WSEK who attended, most of which we spent hiding in the shade as it was a ferociously hot day! It was nice to spread the word about the Widows Sons, and what we do as part of the Masonic Brotherhood; it is still strange to hear that we are still a largely unknown entity within freemasonry, yet we are told that we are the fastest growing part of it!





Maybe some much needed PR work is required?

The Sturry Fair was another event we were requested to attend. It proved to be another wonderful day out spreading the word on Freemasonry and the Widows Sons.

We have a teddy bear that we can't get rid of. It was the top prize in the raffle, again, and every time its gets 'won' they fail to collect it...Mmmm



Well, what another fantastic event! Can not thank the guys that organised it enough- well done fellas brilliant!



The boys getting breakfast a 'Full English' at the notoriously famous Nells café!

We left East Kent with a motley crew of 14 bikes, and 1 from West Kent tagged along with us



for the ride up! We stayed over in Doncaster for the first leg of the journey up and spent the next morning touring around Scarborough and Whitby before finally making it to the Hotel we were staying in for the next 2 days!

The ceremony was another first for the WS as was the patching ceremony after the main event; great to see so many brothers in one place doing what we do best.

Congratulations to all the new chapters who received the charter and the brother who was patched in; absolutely no pressure on the president for that one!



The ride home was exceptional in that the weather did its usual thing of 'tipping it down' as we left the hotel it wasn't until we got to Leeds that it decided to heap favour on us, the sun came out and followed us all the way back to Kent... a most enjoyable weekend that saw us cover 830 miles of great roads, great weather and in the company of brothers

Regards,

Bluebell – Secretary WSEK

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

## EMC @ the 'Major Oak'

17th July Chapter Ride out to the Major Oak in Sherwood Forest. The tree is over 1000 years old and legend has it that Robin Hood hid inside the tree to evade capture by the Sheriff of Nottingham. Freemasons are much like Robin Hood (without the robbery) as those that have give to those that do not.



## EMC + DML supporting Derbyshire Blood Bikes

The East Midlands Chapter together with the Derbyshire Motorcycle Lodge No. 9950 presented a cheque of £120 each to Derbyshire Blood Bikes.

The £240 will go towards the cost of covering refreshments for the Blood Bikers for a year.

The request for support came from W'Bro Philip Houckham who is a member of both EMWS and DML and is a radio controller/dispatcher for the Derbyshire Blood Bikes.

Pictured with a blood bike is Bro Mark Vallis the Operations Manager for Derbyshire Blood Bikes



together with Bro Paul Hitchcock (Vice President EMWS), W'Bro Steve Frixou - DML Charity Steward & a WS, W'Bro George Frost - Provincial Grand Almoner, and W'Bro Martin Giles - Assistant Provincial Grand Master both of Derbyshire.

Derbyshire Blood Bikes will struggle in the months to come due to the increases in fuel and servicing costs and would welcome donations to support the charity.

## EMC Head for the Coast

The latest ride-out for the Widows Sons saw 15 bikes set off from Shardlow Marina to Skegness for fish & chips by the sea. The group is made up of masons, friends and family. We have a few lady riders and other wives go pillion. On route we stopped in at Oham Lakes, just outside of Mablethorpe for a coffee with fellow mason & owner Tim Higham-Jones. He is also a member of the Lincs Imps Chapter of the Widows Sons.



On the beach at Skegness, we presented five new members, two ladies and three members of Elliott Lodge in Mansfield with the insignia of an associate member. When they attain the rank of a Master Mason they will join the Widows Sons as full members.



As well as getting out on the bikes we also raise money for charity. Over the last three months the Chapter has donated:

- £250 to the 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.

If you are into biking and fancy having some fun whilst raising money for charity why not come along and see what we are about. Email [secretary@eastmids.wsmba.uk](mailto:secretary@eastmids.wsmba.uk).



East Midlands Widows Sons were given a warm welcome by the leaders, Jo, Matt & Jane and all the cubs of the 3rd Sandiacre Cubs. Nottingham and Derbyshire masons W Bro Richard Wheelhouse PPrSGD, W Bro John Perridge & Bro Martin Worley presented a cheque for £250 to the group which will be put to good use. The cubs were brilliant and loved the bikes. It was a hot night and they had been given strict instructions



to attend in uniform, which they did to a man. Afterward they all changed into t shirts as it was water fight night and they had all turned up with 'super soakers'. We managed to get away unscathed.

### **EMC donations**

East Midlands Chapter has donated £200 to the Lifelites Platinum appeal

We are proud to announce we have become Silver supporter of NABD 'National Association of Bikers Disabled' helping people back / to motorcycling, we all know how motorcycling gives 'That Feeling'

We have supplied £250 to the PGB Ukrainian appeal and we will continue to monitor and help our Ukrainian Brothers where we can.

Future event is to have a stand at the Loughborough Bike Show to promote Freemasonry and the Widows Sons to the general public

### **Great Architect I -**

Great Architect I pray  
You see me to be a better person each day,  
Through Freemasonry my chosen way,

Great Architect I see,  
Those in need before me,  
Nearer to you and them I need to be.

Great Architect I hear,  
The Brotherhood of man so clear,  
And the Charity of the listening Ear,

Great Architect I sense,  
The meaning of life intense,  
Thank you for my brothers hence.

So Mote It Be

Brother Dennis 'Ghostman' Eldred FC  
DML 9950 - WS EMC,



## Mental Health

In conversation with some of you in the WSMBA I have been shocked to learn that at times, Brethren that I consider to be as “tough as nails”, have succumbed to dark thoughts; dare I say it, suicidal thoughts!

Having been in Masonry for 39 years one of the strengths of our Brotherhood I believed was the support we give each other and that is ultimately backed up by the Lodge Almoner. Looks like it is something that cannot be taken for granted anymore.

This has prompted me to investigate the subject of Mental Health a bit further. Whilst I was under the covid lock down I sat the course run by Mental Health Motorbike, MHM, from material supplied by Mental Health England, MHE, and it culminated in being declared a Mental Health First Aider. It does not mean I am allowed to sit there in a white coat nodding along to the patient's dialogue. I am now aware that I must listen to a friend or brother and then steer them to further help at the same time maintaining contact to ensure they do pursue further action and not spiral inwards. To reassure them that they are not alone and reaching out for help is more than acceptable.

Why are Motorcycles so important to Mental Health?

Alex Strange published in Visor Down a survey undertaken by ASDA Money which highlighted five ways riding improves mental health:

### Brighten your mood

Apparently, scientists discovered that riding a motorcycle releases dopamine and endorphin hormones, which makes us feel happy. Is it because you're focusing on nothing but what's in front of (and around) you? Maybe. But simply put riding makes us happy. Happy makes us healthy.

### Disconnect from technology

When you're riding, you're riding. You are served with that brief disconnect from the online world. Yes, bikes have so much tech and connectivity nowadays, but you can choose to 'switch on to switch off' if you want.

### Enjoy the fresh air

Open the visor on your lid in the countryside and get a big whiff of cow poo - or fresh air. Motorcycling is an outdoor hobby, fresh air stimulates us and looking at trees apparently is called 'tree bathing' and reduces stress.

## Meet new people

How many times have you pulled up to a new place and met a biker, and instantly had something in common to talk about with them? Trading riding stories, route stories and bike gossip - motorcycling is a top way to meet new people. If you choose to join your local riding group, you're instantly part of a network of riders. Plus, we all nod to each other when we are out. That makes us happy.

## Improve your physical health

Riding can be very physically involving, whether you're hauling a behemoth like the R18B around the twisties or on a lightweight sportsbike, you'll be using your body to get around. And that right there is considered exercise. Exercise is proven as a top way to get your mind in the right place.

A sample of a 1000 riders for the survey stated that Motorcycling also helped them with anxiety and/or depression.

If I have come across Brethren with mental health issues, I am sure others have too. And this leads me onto the second part of this article. What can we do to help each other? The Mental Health First Aider Course could be an option. The course is a recognised and approved scheme (see <https://mhfaengland.org>). It is run by MHM a registered charity. There is a cost to it, and maybe those in



a benevolent working environment can get it paid for as the skills learned can be applied to anyone needing help.

The need for Mental Health support services are definitely on the increase, especially since the onset of the Covid-19 virus in March 2020.

Their organisation is growing with 28 volunteer staff, 150 qualified Mental Health First Aiders, 35 Ambassadors and 18 online moderators. They are always looking for support as they have high ambitions of how they want the biker community to engage with their long term wellbeing. One ambition is to create the country's first free dedicated mental health first aid network for bikers.

They have a number of objectives, the first is to get qualified mental health first aiders in bike shops, clubs, cafes, retailers and the bike industry in every town and city across the UK in order to create a strong backbone to their network. Their network already has over 150 trained mental health first aiders and this number is expected to rise through the MHFA 1000 project.

The second thing they want to achieve is a vibrant peer support network – as of May 2022 they have nearly 1700 members in this group. The peer support goes a long way in reducing the social isolation many are facing.

Finally they want to be offering longer term wellbeing activities that members who have had support can get involved with. This brings a greater degree of connection the MHM family. So members can assist at events, with online activities, get involved as ambassadors or do fundraising for them.

Mental Health Motorbike aims to attend a minimum of 75 events per year, reaching out to the

biker community directly. Their branded motorbike, pop up stand and Ambassadors will attend these events and be very visible and encourage people to come and talk to them and join the network. Many of their volunteers are people recovering from mental health issues and they will represent the Mental Health Motorbike brand at events. They are exploring how to set up MHM meet ups which will allow people from all over the country to come together and explore how they are feeling. This will build on the sense of members feeling part of a meaningful community, network and family. Perhaps we can invite them to our events too.

I have been given permission to use this quote from a Brother: "Mental health - it is a bugger. Does not matter how strong you are it comes when you least expect it and nothing makes sense anymore."

We have a fantastic network, perhaps we should strive to have a least one Mental Health First Aider in each Region, ultimately in each Chapter. But whatever we do, lets make sure we look out for the signs, engage and listen. It can be as simple as that to make a difference to a mental health sufferer.

**JOIN NOW**

**Supporters Club**



SCAN ME

MENTAL HEALTH MOTORBIKE

Scan the code or type the url

**www.bit.ly/mhmclub**

We are looking for people to make a monthly donation to help MHM grow into the country's first free dedicated mental health support charity for bikers. Be a part of our success and help us look after the biker community. Join our supporters club now.

## West Mids Chapter Roundup

Remember our last roundup.....no? Then let me remind you of one particular event, 'Logans Run' where we helped to raise £10,000 to purchase a motorised wheelchair for an amazing young lad, Logan. I am extremely pleased to tell you that Logan has now taken possession of the chair and we hope to meet with him soon so he can demonstrate his new driving skills. We also have a little surprise planned for him and his brother which hopefully we will share with you in the next edition of The Son.

So, what else have we been up to? Saturday 2 July found us at PGL Staffordshire where we held our WS AGM. This was well attended, and the day started with a brew and a bacon bap, before moving onto the slightly more serious business. As a Chapter we are continually growing and as a result it was decided to introduce a number of new offices including, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Charity Steward, and Chaplain.



raised Brothers and one of our supporters were patched and name patches presented. We had new supporters at this meeting and their numbers continue to grow, their support is fantastic, they keep turning up, you could say..... Just like Bad Pannies!



On Saturday 23rd July Legge Lodge 2784, of which many of our WSWM are members, held a 'Super Saturday' where we raised three Brothers to the degree of Master Mason who then became full members of WSWM.

The following weekend saw a few of us at the National Rally where we had a fantastic time, drank plenty of beer and even took part in a ceremony at the newly formed Widows Son Lodge.

Our next ride out, the following Sunday concluded with breakfast at Dinkys Dinah and was extremely well attended and even our resident 'Rainman' could not spoil the weather! Our new officers, the newly

# Pilgrims Chapter Roundup

The first weekend in July saw the return of the WSMBA Pilgrims Summer Bash. This year the event was held again at our Tyler Chris Arden's (Hobo) property near Exeter.

An early start on Saturday morning allowed the Club to put the finishing touches to the site and find the time for a quick meeting to award Philip SDS (Hobbit) his final patches.



From midday on a steady flow of bikes began to arrive, despite the morning rain. We had brothers from Wyvern, Southern, Stonecutters and Worcestershire Chapters, and 6 Prospective members for the Pilgrims, all of whom have applied to join us.

While some people chose to remain on site and start partying, our Vice President Simon Windsor (Lurch) led a large group out for a ride over Dartmoor and safely back again. The ride got in to find that the BBQ was fired up and the beer was in free flow.

During the evening, a Biker's quiz was held - some people were definitely more knowledgeable on Bike maintenance than others! The quiz was won by the guest contingent from our friends in the Custodians MC.



The usual raffle and ticket sales in aid of charity was held and well supported, raising £1412.10

A beautiful Firebox

made and donated by our Pilgrims brothers Simon Windsor (Lurch) and Damon Hicks (Hilton) was much appreciated as the evening got cooler.

The youngest attendee was Joe Samuel's (J90) 7-month-old daughter Betsy, but everyone was young at heart on Saturday night, and our Pilgrims associate Caroline Fenwick (Doris) had great fun on the swing!

Sunday morning Hobo had the BBQ fired up again to supply sausage and bacon baps to fortify people before their rides home.

We would like to thank all those who attended and look forward to seeing you all at the next Pilgrims Summer Bash in June 2023.



# Profile of a Pilgrim

Soooo.... turns out there is a bright light when you die. But what they don't tell you is the indescribable peace that you experience.

My name is Phil (aka Hobbit), and this is my journey into the Widows Sons.

No one in my family has ever showed much interest in motorbikes, except for me and my uncle. An awesome man who was larger than life and had hands like shovels. He would wake up early (most likely in the bed that he made in the unit he worked out of), work most of the day, stop and cook lunch for his mates, finish off the day by about 3 o'clock, go partying till 1 o'clock in the morning and then come back and do a couple more hours of work before bed.

When he died, we had three motorbikes and all manner of big boys' toys to get rid of. We used to call him Peter Pan because he was truly the boy who never grew up. Anyway, cut back to an 11-year-old me. A chubby kid with glasses who looked like Harry Potters estranged twin brother, standing outside my uncle's unit one afternoon after school. Now next door to Uncle was this lovely bloke (whose name I have long forgotten) who was a motorcycle mechanic.

Outside his shop was this beautiful Suzuki GSXR SRAD in the old Rizla colours. You know the ones, baby blue with the yellow race stripes, with enough exhaust and torque to make any kid wet their pants and any traffic copper decide to just take his break there and then.

My mouth was drooling. "Do you like that do ya?" said the old bloke. Not making a sound I just nodded my head in admiration. "Well, there's only about seven of those in the country at the moment," he replied.

It was a magical experience that I will never forget. Seeing my face and not missing an opportunity to inspire the next generation, my uncle put me on the tank of his Yamaha Virago that evening and rode up and down the hill at the back of Camden town. It was there and then I promised myself that I would always be a

good man and do anything I could to have my own bike one day. A dream that I never forgot. But as we know, life gets in the way and bills need to be paid. It took me another 16 years at the age of 27 to finally get round to doing my motorcycle license and then a further four years before I could afford to buy my first bike. Fast forward to the age of 30.

It was just coming to the end of my first year as a Freemason during the summer of 2019. I'd heard about the Widows Sons. A bunch of awesome motorcycle enthusiasts riding around raising money for charity and with a respect for the road as if it was their own mother. I was desperate to join and luckily our president (Nails) who was the secretary at the time, had put me forward as a prospect. I was just waiting for a date to join.

At the same time, a good friend of mine and Nails, Steve "The Hog" Tucker had passed away due to cancer. In his honour and with the help of our other good friend, Rosser, we started a memorial run for Steve called "The Hog Run". It was three days before The Hog Run was due its first ride that disaster struck.

On the 12th of August, me and Nails had driven down to Cornwall with trailer behind, to pick up a 1998 Suzuki GSXR SRAD in Blue. Not exactly the bike I fell in love with because it didn't have the Rizla colours but that was soon going to change. I had a smile on me that went from ear to ear and couldn't wait to get on it! The next day on the 13th of August (contrary to Nails warning me not to get on it without him first) I found there was a problem with the carbs. I called up my local motorcycle mechanic who promptly said, "Ahh it's probably dirty carburettors. It's just where it's been stood around for a year. Just take it for a good run and see how it is afterwards."

"Ideal! "I think to myself. "There's a petrol station 2 miles down the road. I'll take her down there, fill her up and ride back. That should help" So, I get my gear on, swing my leg over and start her up. Excitement is not the right word for what I felt getting on that bike.





You've got to remember; it was 16 years before I could get my license and then a further 4 before I could afford to buy my own bike. In that time my uncle, a man I looked up to in life, had passed away 14 years prior when I was 16 and all his bikes that I had fond memories of riding with him on the tank, had been sold. This was the closest I had felt to him in years.

So, I started her up and took off, enjoying the breeze in my face and the way the bike leaned effortlessly round every turn. But like all good stories, the end came swiftly round the corner.

Not four minutes into my journey I approached a blind corner, and a white car came racing round cutting the corner! I swerved to make sure I didn't hit him, but due to inexperience, I got scared and didn't lean enough into the corner. The result was me going headfirst into the hedge, going over the front of my bike and bouncing off that hedge further down the road. I blacked out for all of two seconds, but it felt like five hours, and I found myself lying face down on the hedge when I awoke.

Knowing I was in the middle of nowhere and it would be sometime till someone found me, I made the choice to go against all training and turn myself over to get to my phone in my breast pocket and call for help.

As I turned myself over, there was a click and a warm milky sensation that ran from the bottom of my back down to my legs. I was paralysed from the waist down. Realisation kicking in, I slumped back and let the void take me. I remember a buzzard flying above me and shouting up "NOT TODAY YOU B£&@ed!"

Then everything went white.... as if someone had just put a filter over the world... the trees, the sky, everything. And then it came, an overwhelming sensation of peace. Like nothing mattered anymore.

There was no.... problems, no sadness, no bills to worry about, nothing. Even gravity felt like it didn't exist, and my body was just floating out of itself.

Now the rest of the story is for another time but safe to say, five minutes later another biker

found me. It took another 15 minutes till an ambulance and the air ambulance came to see to me. Within that time, I had regained the use of my legs and was flown to Derriford Hospital.

The next day I can remember being in unbelievable pain. Physically because I'd broken three vertebrae in my spine, emotionally because I had robbed myself of that childhood dream of owning a bike and mentally depressed because I had experienced an un-describable feeling of peace that I knew I could never get back.

It's bad I know. I'm a young man who is married to beautiful woman, has a wonderful two-year-old son, runs his own business, owns a three-bedroom house in Devon and has just cheated death as well as long term paralysis.

But mentally and spiritually it wasn't enough. I can now see why people with near death experiences see a counsellor for help. It's not the fact that you've just nearly died. It's the loneliness and unreachable desire to be held in that space again. It's a conflict of the mind, you want to experience that peace again, but you don't want to have to kill yourself to get there.

Enter Nails and the brothers and sisters of the Widows Sons Pilgrims chapter. That day Nails came to visit me in Hospital, not 12 hours after the accident. It was so good to have him there. I can remember holding his hand so tight. I didn't want him to leave. The nurse came in and said "Unfortunately, family only now." Without hesitation or thinking I replied, "it's okay he's, my brother." I think the shock on his face was only surpassed by the look on mine.

It was four days of lying on my back, not being allowed to move and having six nurses to carefully turn me over every half hour before I could have my operation. It was a further two days after that when I was allowed out of hospital and then had to go back in that same day for another two days. By the time I got home I was more than exhausted. I couldn't move more than a meter without feeling out of breath and having to sit down.

You know that feeling when you sneeze and your whole-body tenses up. It was like that but without the relaxation bit. In comes Nails

again. I don't think I ever told this to him, but he was a key part of my rehabilitation. As I already said, I couldn't move an inch without being in pain.

Two days after being at home Nails comes to visit me. He made me laugh so hard that I was driven to tears of joy and my whole body just relaxed. The very next day I was able to walk further and do more. Two weeks later I was back to work only on light duties.

A couple of months later I was accepted into the Widows Sons Pilgrims Chapter, who opened their arms out to me like a long-lost Brother.

I can remember saying to Nails, "I feel so low because I robbed myself of my dream and I don't think I'll be able to get on the bike again" "You will don't worry" was his reply.

"What?"

"It's like a drug and you've got the taste for it now. I'll give you a year before you're back on the bike," he said with a smile.

Of course, then Covid happened, and it added a couple of years on. But three years down the line, with the help and support of my wife, my mother Lodge, Nails, Lurch, Alvin, Chipmunk, Hilton, Diesel, Thug, Pyro, Bucky, Crabfat, Elkie, Robbo, Doris, J.90, Badger and the rest of the Pilgrims Chapter.

I'm now back on two wheels, in a better mindset and loving life again. I'm also a proud fully patched member of the Widows Sons. The greatest bunch of mates and misfits you could ever be part of..... A family.

I honestly believe that without their support mentally as well as physically, I wouldn't be in the place I am today and for that I am eternally grateful.

*We ride not to escape life,  
but for life not to escape us.*



## Ridings Chapter Roundup

This morning saw the inaugural Brothers Breakfast, hosted by Lascelles Lodge and the Ridings Chapter. Our President, Gremlin is also the Worshipful Master of Lascelles Lodge, having been recently installed.

Never ones to turn down a cooked breakfast in the name of charity, several of the Chapter - Yakka, Brasso, Cappy, Badger, Jag, and candidate Brother Giles, met up at the A59 roundabout at 8:30.



A leisurely ride took to the Wetherby Masonic Hall, meeting up with many other Brothers, partners, wives, and so forth, too many to mention (also remember).

A special appearance was made by WBro Barry Orr (Grandpa) and his lady wife Margaret. Always a pleasure to see them.

Triple B's wife Gill, made the Journey on her new Honda Rebel, having just passed her Mod 2. A very nice bike, it just needs some loud pipes!



Parisi Chapter turned up with a strong showing. They would later lead a ride out for any interested. Many thanks to them for coming!

When the breakfast was announced, there was the usual rush to get served, a common sight in Festive Boards throughout the world! Fortunately, no-one was crushed in the stampede.

Once tummies were full, Gremlin made a short (thankfully) speech to thank everyone for coming and donating to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, a charity close to his heart. He then paid a special tribute to his wife, Tess, without whom he would not be in as good a position as he is now. Barely a dry eye in the house after that one.



Parisi Chapter then headed off for their ride, and folks started to drift away, housework, dogs, football matches were calling.

All in all, it was considered an enormous success, and, hopefully, the first of many. If the idea can be taken up by other lodges, then it would make for a great tour!

Well done to Gremlin and Tess for being the perfect hosts.

Sunday the 22nd of May was a good day. At least for those who made it.

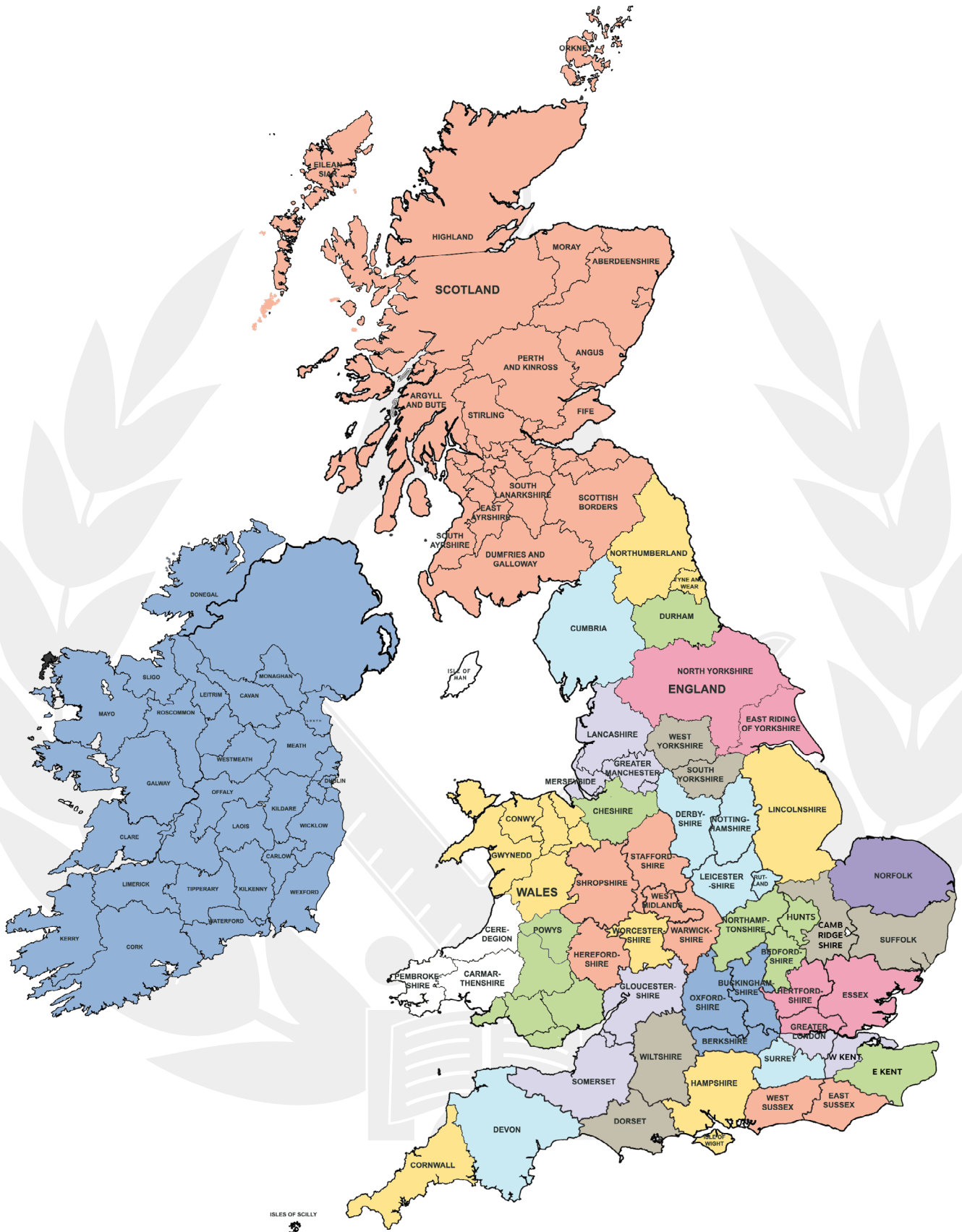
Brother Diesel hosted the Ridings Chapter and Ladies at his place in Harrogate.

Being of Italian extraction, naturally pizza was on the menu. The Brethren, plus Brother Giles and Elton, were spoilt rotten by Diesel and his Lady Wife Natalya.



# Who and where

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



Chapter	Provinces covered	Website/email (clickable)
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>





We were greeted with homemade focaccia, salad and all the trimmings to tide us over while the pizza oven was being readied.



February.

The Chapter were joined by several members



Once the temperature was to Diesel's satisfaction, he leapt into action like a pro! Soon, pizzas were coming at us left, right and centre.

While the frozen varieties may claim to have that "authentic Italian taste", they pale in comparison to the real thing.

Safe to say, no-one left hungry. Diesel

even made sourdough bread for others to take, for a small donation to charity, of course.

Fully sated and a little sleepy, the gathering dispersed before the weather closed in on us. Badger's wife, Pauline had ridden over on her recently acquired Sinnis 125, the longest journey she had made so far.

An excellent afternoon, with excellent company, excellent hosts, excellent food, and excellent music.

Sunday 26th June saw a Rideout to visit Ridings President, Gremlin, who was staying at the RMBI Care Home, Connaught Court in York, for respite care after his life changing accident in



from Parisi and East Midlands Chapters who called in on their way back from a meeting of the Widows Sons Lodge 10011.

Gremlin and Connaught Court had laid on a wonderful spread of tea, coffee and many cakes.

It was a lovely day out with old friends, visiting new places and time spent with Gremlin.



## Beda Chapter Update

Ride outs - Beda continues to hold formal monthly ride outs and informal mid-week rides. We visited Melton Mowbray on a four counties tour, supported Icenis on a ride out for Sarcoma UK, attended the National Rally, and visited Wales for a Weekender.



Spartan's recovery and a special event – Beda's Almoner, Connor (Spartan) suffered a serious accident in November 2021. He is making good progress in his recovery, and in July Connor and Ashley

were blessed with their first child Freya, who will no doubt have a road name soon from her honorary Beda Aunts and Uncles.

Armed Forces Covenant - On 30th May the PGM of Bedfordshire signed the Armed Forces Covenant at The Keep. Beda members including Armed Forces veterans were proud to support this moving event. Beda met for breakfast first in Towcester followed by a very wet ride out led by Crazy Legs.



30000th TLC Bear – Bedfordshire PGL celebrated their 30,000th TLC Bear donated to Bedford and Luton hospitals. Beda met for breakfast then escorted the PGM and PG Charity Steward to Bedford Hospital for the presentation. The NHS staff confirmed what a difference the bears make for the children who receive them.



Bloodbikers - Beda's Nunny Bear, Plates and Wiggi are active riders for Bloodbikers and were delighted that their organisation SERV Beds and Herts was awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2022. Beda are supporting Bloodbikers this year to help fund a dedicated vehicle.

Socials, Crazy Legs Draw, Quizzes - Beda visit all corners of Bedfordshire for monthly Socials and hold fiercely fought quizzes. We hold our Crazy Legs Draw each month, raising £400 for charity since May.

BEDA Charter – hard to believe but Beda has been going 4 years and celebrated the granting of our charted in July 2018. Little did we know then the road miles, enjoyment, camaraderie, and charitable works that would ensue for our very diverse members. We were proud to be at the National Rally in July and the meeting of the Widows Sons Lodge.





Lodge of Friendship – Beda supported the PGL Bedfordshire in raising funds for the Lodge of Friendship, an accommodation building at the Leslie Sell Activity Centre for Scouting in Bromham and attended the Province’s Fun Day there to raise funds for the 2026 Festival.



New Members and Patching - Beda continues to attract new members and in June we were pleased to patch our new members Pugwash, Emu, and Anvil. Emu and Anvil have now embarked on a 12-month tour of Australia and were sent on their way with a special presentation and dinner.



Beda Wales Weekender 2022 – Beda met 3 Chapters and a Craft Lodge in 3 days. Beda members enjoyed a hearty breakfast before an exceptional ride in desert like weather conditions, led by our road Captain Jay, through England and the breath-taking views of the Welsh country side to Gwynned for our overnight stop. Beda were challenged by the locals to a singing competition, we tried to match their harmonies and perfect tunes, our past President picked a few songs, sadly Beda did not know the words, until our president Jeff knocked “You’ll never walk alone” out the park to a round of applause from the locals. Day 2 started early, riding to Swallow Falls,







Day 3 - We rode to Dom's bike stop in Leominster to meet the Worcestershire Chapter for a patching ceremony.

A fantastic weekend and Beda look forward to next year and we can do it all over again!

Then on to Mount Snowdon to meet the Parisi Chapter for a catch up and refreshments, via the Llanberis Pass, (both ways), with stunning views and some of the best bike roads in the world.

After a whistle stop at a café in Rhuddlan to meet up with North Wales Chapter, Beda rode to Pennet Lodge in Mostyn for a cheque presentation and BBQ to finish Day 2.



## Worcestershire Chapter Update

We continue to make the most of the hot weather with our regular weekly Wednesday runs, along with our more formal 2nd Sunday monthly ride-outs. We started this quarter off by riding into the Worcester Warriors Community foundation's Jubilee celebration – one of our charities of the year (specifically Alzheimer's) where we presented a cheque, showed off the bikes and chatted to their members - many remembering their biker days of the past. An event which was picked up by the local press, to increase our publicity in the Worcestershire area.

Our Wednesday runs to various events and biker nights are also proving very fruitful in gaining interest in membership; having picked up more potential members to both the Chapter and Freemasonry as a result of us being seen out and about – success all around! We also were represented at the “Crank Up Rollin ride” in Binton, where we had a great turnout of members for this new show.

Further afield, we joined the Lodge of Progress No. 9893 (our Worcestershire motorcycle Lodge) for a weekend as they attended a lodge meeting in Built Wells, (such a fantastic lodge room for those not been before!), followed by some great riding over the Drovers Way after a few beers the night before; as well as joining the Pilgrims on their camping weekend in Exeter – a very soggy drive down the M5, but the sun eventually shone on the righteous as we arrived and put up the tents. A fantastic weekend was had by all ☑ We will also be joining up with Beda Chapter as they ride through Worcestershire on their way back from their camping this weekend and showing them some of the usual Worcestershire biker sites!

Three of our members made it to the National, to pick up our “proper” charter (to replace our E-charter) – sadly I was on a long standing booked trip riding Route 66 in the US and therefore unable to make it. However, one of them, Scott Dexter, an associate member writes “We left Worcester, tents stowed on board and headed North up the M6 to meet with friends from the Northwest Chapter.

They were waiting for us when we eventually got to Junction 23 after a long ride through a very stationary M6. Fortunately, we soon left the drudgery

of the motorway and had a very scenic tootle across the North Pennines over to Bishop Auckland RC, around 260 miles. From my own point of view as an associate (Worcestershire Pear Drop, hopeful to be one day a MM / WS!), I was made to feel very welcome and made a lot of what I hope will be good friends for years to come! The site was really well organized with good facilities for all. The Rugby Club staff were very happy and friendly. Good beer, great service, and food too (breakfast was good the morning after!). The artisan Pizza stall was amazing and I confess I visited it more than once! The bands worked hard and were well chosen – such a good selection of happy positive vibes.”

Here's to enjoying more of the sun and stay sunny side up!

Andy (Monte) Philpott  
Founding President



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

## Parisi Chapter Update

The Parisi Chapter have been busy visiting other chapters and generally getting out and about.

Twenty of us have just had a long weekend in The Netherlands and enjoyed wonderful weather, fantastic company and great times riding through the delightful country side.

A very special thank you goes out to the Dutch Widows Sons who turned up in good numbers to show us around and they made us extremely welcome. What a sight it was to see 32 bikes winding their way around the side of canals and rivers, we've seen some wonderful places and made new friends along the way.

We also had the pleasure of visiting Lincolnshire and rode to an event called Masons and Motors, we only found out about it on Friday so a visiting attendance of 13 people was a good turnout.

We had a good ride to Hull and a meet up at the Humber Bridge before crossing the river



into deepest darkest Lincolnshire.

The roads in Lincolnshire are on the whole very nice indeed with long sweeping bends and whilst the main roads can get busy the back roads are largely clear and

make for very pleasurable riding.

At 12:00 noon we arrived at the venue, we were immediately welcomed by 'Tug' and the rest of the Lincs Imps Widows Sons, cars and bikes everywhere, some old, some very old and a smattering of modern cars were all on show, bikes from the 1920's up to brand new 70 plated bikes were also there for people to admire.

Away from the show was a cafe, 2 restaurants, a farm shop, an art gallery, clothes shop and a cycle shop, nice walks around the grounds and all this for free. As a Yorkshireman I love 'owt for nowt'.

We stopped for a cuppa on the way home and we've all had a great day out.

Further to this we went to North Wales. Burning hot sunshine with the mercury touching the mid 30's, heavy traffic and long distances aren't a great mix but WBro Mark Irons had arranged a weekend get together and we were in for a great time.

About 22 of us made our way to North Wales and to the edge of Snowdonia in the National Park. We pitched our tents in a friendly farmers field and parked the bikes up in his barn. (Thank you Gwyn) a homemade chilli con-carne and rice was on the menu and a better chilli I've never tasted, absolutely delicious, thank you Mark and Caroline.

The first night was easy, in one of the barns, chairs positioned into a big circle, a few drinks and chatted as good friends do into the early hours.

The following morning we awoke to coffee and bacon rolls! What more could you ask



for? Then onto a ride around the mountains, to the old slate museum which was fantastic, then to the Pant Du Vinyard for a lovely lunch and then on to the Crimea Pass, however



on the way to the vinyard we saw some bikes parked up at a café, and friendly faces waving to us, we noticed Widows Sons patches and then faces, it was only our good friends from Beda Chapter. What a fantastic coincidence, naturally we stopped and had a drink and a chat before continuing on our journey.

Sunday came around to quickly and it was back home, we had a brilliant weekend and are hoping to repeat again next year.

Back to camp and another nice easy night of chatter, but tonight we had a traditional Gaelic band playing, they were really good and we all enjoyed the background music.

Thank you to our hosts and organisers, you did us proud.



## Wyvern Chapter Update

What another fantastic quarter. Patching in of brothers, great weather, open roads and of course the Widows Sons National Rally. We have been enjoying our monthly ride outs and church meetings to discuss chapter business, much nicer now that the weather has changed from wet and cold to warm and sunny.

We have raised money for the air ambulance between ourselves on our open ride outs and continue to contribute where we can but in this edition, I will move away from charity work and talk about us as a chapter. We continue to support our central biker friendly pub who give us free access to their property for our meetings, and in return we clear them out of good old English breakfasts and help to boost numbers for bike night, not that it's required at Leather and Lace just outside of Bridgewater, they are fantastic to the two wheeled lovers. In Somerset we are surrounded by MC's and MCC's alike, to that end we have been rubbing shoulders with them, to help them better understand what we are about as Widows Sons, and what the MBA is all about. Bearing in mind we wear a back patch minus rockers, many MCC's and a few MC's are curious about where we sit in this different world of politics and rules. We have been exceptionally well received because they no longer have questions and now, we are widely accepted for the good work we do and have even made close personal friends during our time with them. With private clubhouse and party invites to a few notable names in the MC world we feel

as Wyvern, that we have established ourselves admirable, with the clear sign that we are not 1%ers, but Freemasons. Happy to party, have a drink, ride, but that's where the relationship ends, and because of this clear line in the sand having been drawn, we have support and friends all over the region and can travel anywhere freely wearing our Widows Sons logo proudly while receiving the thumbs up, which we feel is very important while trying to spread freemasonry in the counties and help others understand what we do.



The national rally saw us turn up in force all riding our bikes with tents and booze stowed ready to rock in Bishop Auckland. This being the first real chance to show what Wyvern is about since receiving our charter we were proud to fly our Wyvern amongst the other chapters. Once we settled in, I was gathered in by a few of my members. Wondering what was happening I was then bought into the middle of an enclosed Wyvern circle. Two of my members had made me a Gavel made of a 19mm Spanner, welded to a Harley Piston with a wood burned engraved Wyvern Logo to hammer down on. In their words "It doesn't feel right that our President doesn't have a gavel at church, so we have addressed this." An





incredible gift and heart warming to receive from the lads. This brotherly love is why I adore this chapter, the lads always going above and beyond. Later, during the

as the newest Widows Son in the UK. A long road ahead to earn the rest of his patches but we are confident he will breeze through it all. Afterwards, and after years of patiently waiting, we finally had the chance to receive our charter, hard earned through our roots, we embraced this wonderful occasion feeling truly at home and welcomed by you all and we are thank you. The weekend for us was huge, first proper representation of ourselves, charter issued, and most importantly, another active member in our ranks. Semper Wyvern

Royal - President

Wyvern Chapter Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association

rally after the incredible Widows Sons Lodge meeting (by the way, amazing, well done Andy Hunn), we asked that a circle be formed to patch in our brother wanting to join our chapter. For those of you that were there, thank you! For those that weren't a huge circle was formed with pretty much the entire rallies worth of Widows Sons, and poor Johnathon had no idea what he was about to be put through after waiting for his moment after 6 months of waiting. In Wyvern tradition, but in front of all the chapters in the UK he had to state why he thought he should be allowed to wear our patch, and then was judged by every single member. After hearing his piece to join after being put right on the spot, and after every member voted publicly on whether he was the right guy to join our ranks, it gave me great pleasure to present his first patch to him in front of you all



## Netherlands Chapter Update

My president has asked me to do a write-up on our club, the Widows Sons charter the Netherlands. I have done some writing before, covering ride-outs and WS trips abroad. That is a rather easy job, it's just talking about these specific events. This write-up however is different and a bit more challenging; it is meant to give an impression of who we are as a people, as freemasons and as Widows Sons.

Truth be told, I have been putting this job off for a few days because I was – and still am – struggling to find the right words to capture a feeling of belonging and brotherhood strong enough to have made a deep impact on my life.

So, what should I talk about?

- Should I discuss the official notarized founding of the Widows Sons Netherlands MBA on the 26th of June 2020?
- The fact that we are very proud to have been able to be part of the Iceni chapter to start off with.
- The fact that we are incredibly happy to now have our own Dutch charter.
- The amount of money we have raised for charity purposes such as a Dutch foundation that supplies beautiful hair pieces to cancer patients.
- All the incredible scenery we have seen riding as a group in our own country, in Germany, Luxembourg, England and Scotland?
- All the silly situations we have been in that



weren't always funny at the time but that have provided many a member with a great road name.

- The fact that I am absolutely terrified of the road name I have yet to receive.
- All the help the more seasoned riders have offered the newbies to help improve their riding skills.
- All the time a rider has broken down for some reason and one of the brothers, without thinking about it for more than a second, has always stopped to help in some way?
- How even though Holland is a relatively small country the average brother will not mind at all to ride solo for three hours just to participate in a two-hour group ride?
- How do brethren come from all different walks of life and still love hanging out with each other?
- How forming a brotherly chain in Bishop Auckland with a few hundred brethren has made a profound impact on all of us?
- How do we love having foreign brethren (and their families) over and showing them the beauty of our country?

It is a combination of all these things – and quite a few more – that make up the feeling that comes with our great brotherhood. The feeling of being part of something much bigger than us, being able to make a difference in other peoples' lives whilst having an absolute blast.

That - for me- is the reason to proudly be a Widows Son.

## Gibraltar Chapter Update

A very busy summer for the brethren of the Gibraltar Chapter. Our Chapter continuously grows in numbers and enjoys its monthly rides taking full advantage of the weather and the exceptional roads that lead us to many different, beautiful locations within the Andalusian coast or mountain regions.

On the 23rd of June 2022, Bro. Michael Ballester was installed as Worshipful Master of the Lodge of St. John 115 (EC).



WBro. Michael was initiated on the 23rd October 1986, in the Lodge of St John in Gibraltar, he was passed, on the 23rd April 1987 and raised on the 22nd October 1987. Since joining Freemasonry WBro. Michael has always showed his dedication and love for Freemasonry and supported his mother lodge. He has always been an asset to his Lodge taking on any office which was asked of him, always giving 100% putting freemasonry first before personal interest. The reality is that WBro. Michael could have held the chair of King Solomon many years ago but, due to his integrity and love for his Lodge he always declined saying that when the time was right, he would accept and take the plunge. Finally, he did, and the Lodge of St John's is proud and happy to say, "WBro Michael the Lodge is under your care and guidance." As a biker we make sure that when we ride, he is well placed within the bike line so as not to lose him. Getting quick to anywhere is not his strongest attribute however, this we all know from his Masonic career.

Arrangements were made with both the brethren of Gibraltar & Portuguese Chapters

to turn up and support WBro. Michael on his memorial evening at the Gibraltar Masonic Institute.



As a token of our continuous support, the membership of WSGC presented WBro. Michael with a cheque of £250, this amount is to be used by The Lodge of St. John at the discretion of their Worshipful Master for any charity of their own choice.

### Trip to Elvas

As it has become (very) customary between these Sister Chapters (Portuguese and Gibraltar), the brethren like to support each other wherever possible.



On the 24th June 2022, a group of 12 members with several of our partners set off from Gibraltar towards the city of Elvas, Portugal to ensure that 1st Anniversary of the Portugal Chapter didn't go unnoticed.

We arrived in Elvas late afternoon, managing to get our respective rooms allocated and still enjoy several hours of sun by the pool with a beer or two at hand to wind down from our 6 hours ride covering approx 500km.

The anniversary dinner was held in a very relaxed hotel Sao Joao Deus within its own



grounds, court yard, located within the city walls of a 17th-century former convent, walking distance from the Castle of Elvas, a medieval military fortification which provided spectacular views.



A truly wonderful evening where all those attending were able to enjoy the true meaning of brotherhood.

### Faro Rally Tour



After a long-awaited period, we finally got back to the 40th National Rally in Faro well overdue thanks to pandemic, as the Faro 2020 and 2021 Rallies were cancelled. Yes, we were able to enjoy four days of riding in southern Portugal and pooling in the lovely but very hot settings, with thousands of motorbikes, beer, concerts, exhibitions, street entertainment are the ingredients of what is considered one of the largest and best biker concentrations in

Europe.

During our visit we were able to arrange our own daily riders. On our first day we visited Albufeira and its beautiful beaches before riding inland where we were able to enjoy the local traditional cuisine.



On Day 2 we ventured 130km West to the city of Sagres, a further 20 km journey down the coastal road ensured we arrived at a spectacular view on a very clear day of Cape Saint Vincent, Lighthouse (Cabo de São Vicente) which was constructed in 1846 and is notable for being located on the extreme southwestern-most point in both Portugal and on continental Europe.

On our return ride we were invited for lunch in the town of Loulé in a restaurant called 'Retiro do Camponês Restaurant,' arrangements were once again made by the members of our sister Chapter who ensured we were all treated to a special atmosphere by the restaurant staff, simply sublime.



The proceeds generated by The Gibraltar Chapter from ALL our Rideouts and Tours continuous to support local charities where possible. During the last months we have supported several families in need with household appliances and donated towards other charitable appeals within the local community.

## Iceni Chapter Update

Iceni has been a chapter for a considerable time, but at this year's National Rally, we lost a load of Members, but it was a good time to lose them as they became the Iceni Chapter Nederland's, after visiting Holland for Grootlicht, a Dutch masonic motorcycle group we became friends with Jan Engbersen, their President, who two years later joined Iceni along with one other, (name withheld on purpose) and from our visit there these two guys started visiting our Lodges, they then encouraged others to join, they have done a great job, the Dutch visited us earlier in the year and attended Coborn Lodge, plus ride outs with the Chapter including a London night ride approx. 20 riders that was a challenge!

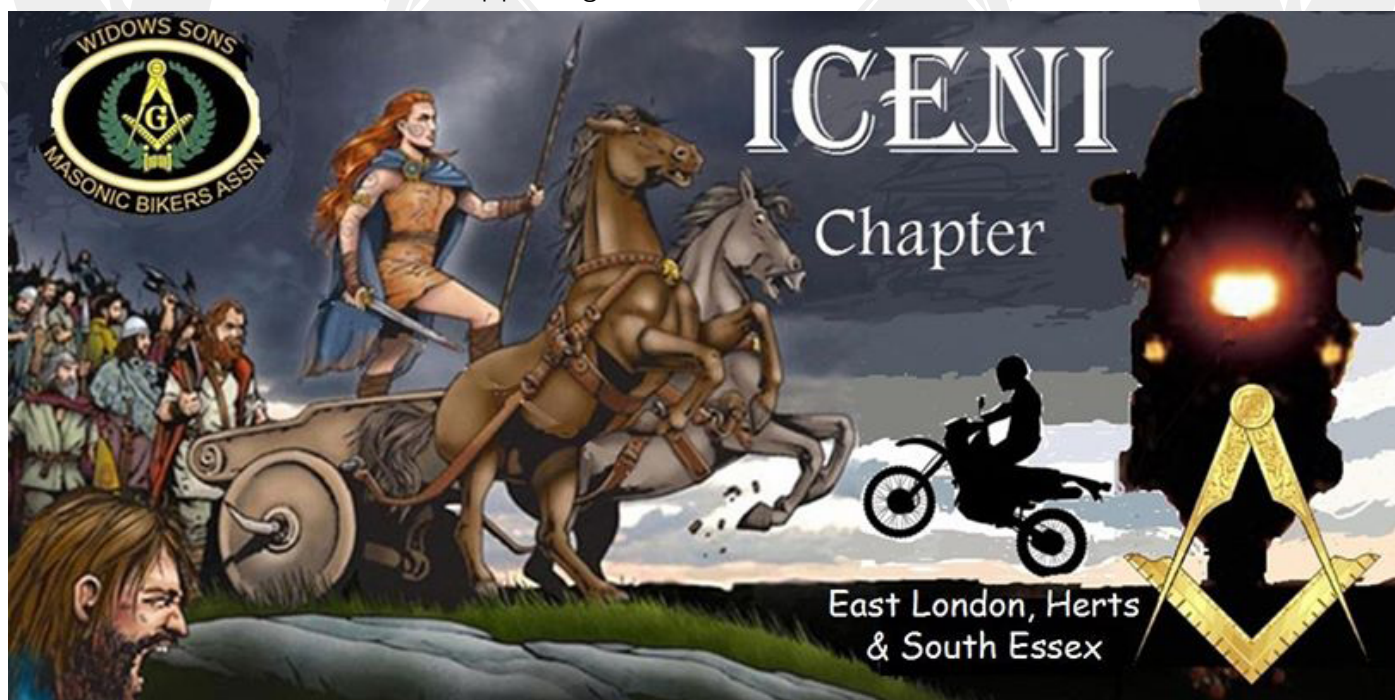
Due to covid, the chapter did little as a full group like many other chapters, but like others we did as much as could to help and assist others like the NHS etc. we answered the call for volunteers to assist with meals on wheels campaign for the Mark MM province of Essex, who awarded Iceni chapter £500 to our charity pot to use as we saw fit.

Our ride outs are now back to weekly alternating from Saturday and Sunday, also midweek last-minute rides are happening

once again. We have also got a joint ride with the Dutch Iceni to Ypres for a WW1 Weekend tour happening in October with both Chapters booked to lay wreaths at the Menin Gate.

Coborn Lodge which Iceni saved from closing is now up to 50 members, with 23 joiners, 12 initiates we currently have three 2nds outstanding, then six 3rds this without any new candidates, St Pauls Chapter also saved by the Iceni Chapter has had 10 joiners with 8 exalted and more waiting to join.

Charity this year we have donated more than £5500 to the following, £2200 Lifelites appeal (WSMBA) plus (WSMBA) appeals for donations for individuals, £250 was donated to Chingford Masonic Centre towards the servicing costs of their defibrillator plus donations to the two RMBI Homes at Watford & Stisted, we also raised more than £2000 for a local Sarcoma UK appeal, which helped them raise more than £8000.



## The Return of the National Rally

Finally after a two year absence, at the end of July in Bishop Auckland, we welcomed the return of the National Rally. Co hosted by Widows Sons Northumberland and Durham. The event brought together over 400 members from across the UK and beyond.



This rally was the first of the new theme, where chapters work collectively to host the event, and the focus of the event is on having a great party with good bands and food and giving something back to our members and associates. Six bands entertained us on the Friday and Saturday evening, in a rally marquee with stage PA and lighting “a proper job!” and although the event was not designed to raise money for charity, we still managed to make sizable donations to both the Northumbria Blood Bikes and the Widows Sons national appeal for Lifelites.



A tremendous weekend of Brotherhood bikes and beer, and although the numbers attending may have seemed low compared to previous years, we have to accept that the effects of COVID are still



around, and no doubt in time will improve. This weekend acts as a reminder of the Widows Sons is really about, we can celebrate our achievements, welcome new chapters and members and enjoy real Brotherhood. This



was further underlined by the meeting of the Widows Sons Lodge No10011, an incredible achievement, and enjoyed by all whom attended, history in the making

**Roll on the next rally in 2023!**



## Shires Chapter Update

In the best traditions of Freemasonry and Widows Sons, the Shires Chapter has been active as usual this year.

The guys have raised £1140 to send NATO Medical packs to Ukraine. These were dropped off to one of the President's Ukrainian clients that's been active in supplying equipment and ours went directly into a unit at the front-line



Next up was the May bank holiday BBQ held at the regular Barleycorn venue. This is a twice annual event and this one was to help sponsor a local scout to be able to attend the worldwide jamboree that he had been invited to. We raised £500 profit on the day for him.

Then came the WS Shires Germany trip which you may have read about

in another article. What a blast with the German WS and did they look after us! We made two separate collections for them, each at 300 euros, so 600 euros and a small token to schuuultze's two young children

As we move into summer/autumn more events are planned, the next BBQ & Presidents weekend, with Blood Bikers on our agenda. Keep a look out for the further Shires exploits!

### Shires Widows Sons Germany Trip July 2022

After an overnight stay in Folkestone, we started out bright and early for the Eurotunnel terminal. It was a beautifully sunny day which made the slow passage through the double customs posts a bit more bearable. We ended up getting a later train due to the queues but

were soon in France and looking forward to the open road.

We made good time on the motorways, reaching our overnight stopping point in Aachen in time for some much needed down time and a beer before heading into town for dinner.

For some, this was an opportunity for our first schnitzel while others re-visited the favourite German kebabs or Gyros.



Aachen is a pretty place - full of character and, being Friday night, the town was buzzing with activity, especially outside the bar we chose which was full of local folk enjoying the good value liquid offerings.

Next morning, we made our way east through Germany - stopping en route at the Mohnesee Dam - made famous as one of the locations of the epic bouncing bomb raids of the second world war. The place is steeped in history, and it was amazing to see. It marked the end of the motorways for a while, and we then broke off into a much more picturesque route through the German countryside to our home for the next week - Bad Grund in the Harz mountains and Biker Hotel Harmonie - with hosts Peter and Corinna.

After checking in and being shown to our rooms, we were told to be ready for a surprise event and before long a coach turned up, with escorting riders from the German Widow's Sons, which took us to the nearby town of Herzberg and the Landhaus Schulze, where our German colleagues had gathered from all parts to meet us. Florian, (aka Schuuulze) the owner and a member of the Widows Sons had arranged a BBQ for us - really healthy portions

of possibly less healthy food, but it was hearty and delicious and went down well with the local brews. We partied into the night with our new friends - retreating to the snug cabin and fire pit when the night air turned chilly - until, like so many Cinderella's, the coach turned up at midnight to take us back to our digs.



Riding in the Harz is a real delight. Road surface conditions are excellent and the roads through the mountains are varied, traversing different terrains and vistas. Our next days were taken up with scenic routes all around the area, taking in quaint medieval towns along the way. We experienced the full range of mountain conditions - from light drizzle to sweltering heat but overall, we were lucky - despite the more pessimistic weather reports. Some of the highlights were:

Torfhaus, where we learnt about the legend of the Witches after whom the Brocken Mountain is named, sampled the hot chocolate, and saw just how near we were to the former East



German border and the soviet era listening post.

Goslar - a small, picturesque town not far from our hotel where we lunched while being treated to the show of the town hall figures, depicting the mining heritage of the area, that come out when the clock strikes the hour. We returned to our hotel and another BBQ arranged by the hosts, the well-stocked and reasonably priced bar and your correspondent's particular favourite, Berry Gin.



Wernigerode

Slightly larger than Goslar but similar in character, Wernigerode had an abundance of the semi-timbered architecture that the area is famous for. Although the day dawned wet, and we put on our rainwear we soon took all that off as the day brightened. The ride in took us across multiple crossings of the mountain narrow gauge steam railway and through undulating, winding roads. We finished the day at a local Schnitzel restaurant arranged by our hosts again with enormous portions. Although delicious, most of us were by now schnitzeled-out!

We visited the town of Nordhausen the next day - one of the hottest of our visit. En route we stopped for a break and coffee at Pullman City - a western-themed park and cafe popular with bikers. A good spot for admiring visiting bikes.

Nordhausen is the home of the WW2 V2

underground rocket factory and the Mittelwerke / DORA concentration camp which provided the labour to manufacture the rockets. There is an impressive visitor centre there showing the full horror of the conditions the prisoners faced. We all left in a far more sombre mood.

### Derneburg Pyramid and the Inerste Dam

Set in a peaceful wooded glade near the town of Derneburg, the Pyramid is the family mausoleum of a famous member of the German Aristocracy - Ernst Herbert zu Munster. A freemason, Ernst was minster of the Hanoverian Chancery in London during the reign of George III in the early 18th century. We visited in the morning and then in the afternoon, via a much-needed tea stop - and the nicest cakes we tasted all week - we visited the Inerste Dam, via an off-road trail. By now the temperature was nudging 29 degrees and the breeze at the top of the Dam was a welcome respite.

On Thursday, Schuuulze had taken time out of running the Landhaus and took us on a tour of the less well ridden routes in the area. As well as the scenery and great biking roads, we got to visit the Hercynian Distillery - producing German single malt whisky. We were taken on a tour by the extremely knowledgeable Anna, also a freemason, who explained the whole process and showed us the impressive and beautiful equipment. The visit culminated in a tasting session and a visit to the gift shop - no one left empty-handed.

Schuuulze then took us to a burger stall which has become a favourite of the local bikers and we soon understood why - they have a wide choice of gourmet burgers, and it was difficult to decide which to sample. As we waddled back to mount the bikes for the ride home,



everyone agreed it was a delicious lunch.

Most of the group had this day as the highlight of the holiday and we were all so grateful to Florian for his time, arrangements and..... whisky!

### The Train Ride that wasn't!

On our last day, we decided to scale the Brocken via the previously mentioned narrow gauge steam railway. After a bit of a detour, we found the right station and parked up - only to decide on a swift change of plans when we discovered the cost of the very short trip! Instead, we went to the Coaster - which some had already sampled - a fun small rollercoaster where the only instructions are to keep off the brakes!

We concluded our stay at the Harmonie with another BBQ and this time, Florian and the mini-Schulzes were invited to receive our thanks for looking after us and to make a donation to the German Widow's Sons charity.

We left on Saturday after breakfast and headed for Brussels where we were to stay overnight. Two of our number didn't make it due to a nasty tyre problem, but one door closes, and the other opens and they partied into the night in a newly discovered town before heading onwards to France.

The remainder of us got early trains the next morning back to the UK, by now tired but with a pannier full of happy memories.



## Stonecutters Chapter Update

As one of the youngest Chapters in the WSMBA, our membership has continued to rise. We now have seventy-four active members including 40 Widows Sons, 19 Cornerstones and 15 joiners in progress, although our numbers may fluctuate due to the recent chartering of the Dorset Quarrymen.

Our summer season started in late May when 15 Stonecutters responded to an appeal for bikers to visit the residents of Staverton Care Home in Trowbridge. This was our first charity run of the year where over a hundred bikers attended and we discovered three of the care home residents were also bikers.



The PGM of Wiltshire asked the Stonecutters if we could support the Wiltshire Summer Lodge (WSL) No 9548, the smallest lodge in the province. WSL was in danger of returning its Warrant if membership did not increase. On 3rd June, 15 Stonecutters became joining members, and one Cornerstone was initiated, which more than doubled membership of the Lodge in one swoop. Our Past President, Bro Andrew Botha stepped in as Junior Warden and our President, Bro Jamie "Ozzie" Osborne was Junior Deacon with many Stonecutters also becoming Lodge Officers. Our



Candidate, as ritual dictates, was deprived of all items of value prior to his entry - this included a couple of carrots, apparently for a goat but, was the joke on us? The Stonecutters are now looking forwards to following our newly initiated Bro along his Masonic journey and look forwards to him becoming a Widows Son.



Summer has been quite a blur of ride outs during the heatwave where we quite literally, have been dodging the smoke and flames on and around Salisbury Plain. Numerous members also rode to Bishop Auckland for the National Rally. We very proudly watched the Dorset Quarrymen being chartered and becoming a Chapter in their own right. Sadly, Bro Graham "Grump" Taylor, President of the Quarrymen, and fellow Stonecutter, passed away three days before the National Rally. Our



In September, the Stonecutters will be assisting a local man, Mr Russel Ashford, to organise and run a 48-hour charity carp angling competition near Warminster. The event is a fundraiser for Dorothy House Cancer Charity who have supported Russel and his family throughout his journey with cancer. The Stonecutters surprised Russel by donating his entry fees to allow him to compete, as an enthusiastic angler this meant so much to him. We will undertake the behind-the-scenes administration, fund raising and the more physically challenging aspects of the weekend on his behalf. Russel and the Stonecutters wish to thank donors for their kind contributions to such a deserving cause. If any readers wish to make a small donation, the Just Giving page can be found at: [https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/islandcharity2022?utm\\_term=k9Md8Jn3x](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/islandcharity2022?utm_term=k9Md8Jn3x).

thoughts are very much with his family and friends at this difficult time. As summer draws to a close and the nights and weather (should) close in, we are planning a few autumn ride-outs, fundraisers, social events, and presentations to our supported charities.





## Technical corner

You know, I hate being the same as everyone else. I became a biker because I liked the transport but I dress as a biker because it is different to most of the rest of the World. Being different is something I revel in, I think we all do. But there are times where not being different is a good thing, where uniformity helps without branding you as a sheep.

The Internet is not just a part of daily life these days, it takes up a huge chunk of people's time; it's where they turn to for data, facts and figures, information and contacts as well as to pass the time away.

The previous two paragraphs are very closely linked.

The WSMBA is now 1,000 members in size, that's bigger than 99.5% of companies in the UK[1]. What we don't yet have that those 99.5% do is a unified digital presence, something that links us together online and makes us look more professional.

Our association owns and uses the [wsmba.uk](https://wsmba.uk) Internet domain, it is short but it very clearly indicates who we are (the WSMBA), where we are located (the UK) and this domain gives us the perfect basis for our unified digital presence. It makes it easier for people to contact us and saves you time and money.

### Unified

Each chapter has its own section (subdomain) underneath [wsmba.uk](https://wsmba.uk) with a website (if you design it) and officer emails (if you provide email forwarding addresses).

### Contact

This ability to provide chapter names underneath a clear, understandable domain name shows the digital world that we are one cohesive group ([wsmba.uk](https://wsmba.uk)) with discrete organisational units ([shires.wsmba.uk](https://shires.wsmba.uk), [ridings.wsmba.uk](https://ridings.wsmba.uk) etc) and easily allows people outside of the WSMBA to work out the official email addresses without thinking much about it ([secretary@wsmba.uk](mailto:secretary@wsmba.uk), [treasurer@southern.wsmba.uk](mailto:treasurer@southern.wsmba.uk), you get the idea).

If every chapter uses their `<chapter>.wsmba.uk` domain name on their advertising, business cards, flags and other advertising media this will reinforce the unified online presence that we must be providing in this day and age. Thus, when the president of Stonecutters tells someone that his email address is "president@stonecutters.wsmba.uk" they can guess that the chapter's website is <https://stonecutters.wsmba.uk/> and the association's national website must be <https://wsmba.uk/>

### Money

As each chapter currently pays £10 a year to cover IT and admin costs, you are already paying for your chapter's sub-domain under [wsmba.uk](https://wsmba.uk), plus the email addresses from which we can forward emails to you. If you get your own website and domain name through a different company like GoDaddy then you will have to pay their fees on top, which makes no sense!

You are not going to get a better deal than this unless you own your own hosting company or work for one (and yes, I know that some of you do!).

Unified hosting and emails for the cost of 10p per member per year. You know it makes sense.

All queries can be directed to the WSMBA Technical Gurus: [technical@wsmba.uk](mailto:technical@wsmba.uk)



Footnotes:

[1] - ONS Enterprise average employment and employees, 2017

## Portuguese Chapter Roundup

The Portuguese Chapter of WSMBA has completed its 1st lap around the sun... it's time to celebrate!

Many kilometers have been done, much learning completed and most importantly a learning process of how-to breath and live the WSMBA, considering its full constitution as a Regular Freemasonry.

One of our first goals was accomplished: to share and to inform, fighting the speculative misinformation, so we could demonstrate the greatness and dynamics of our association as Freemasons defending Regularity, in Portugal.

All our all members belong to the GLLP/GLRP, with whom we have a fraternal relationship. By opening to family and friends, our Cornerstones, we have been able to demonstrate their strength by raising three new Freemasons. We are also particularly happy to have the participation of our families in this great Masonic family, whether it is on our rides or in our events.

But we still have a long way to go.



We completed our administrative and official constitution in Tomar (where we can see the Templar Castle), September 2021, where we had the honorable visit of the actual President Gregory Kirby and the Brothers of Gibraltar, with a solid devotion of all the national founders.

This moment is well known to all, and its memory well registered.

After this great event, we organized our Christmas lunch, our Spring weekend and the Celebration of the date of our constitution.



Since then, the intention has been to grow in a sustained and inclusive way, holding several meetings to decide on the Legal Association, bank account, the elements, the functions, the regulation, the events, the solidarity causes, among many other deliberations, always in a democratic manner



Besides the presence of the President and one of the founders in Derby at the annual WSMBA meeting, where, due to not being able to be



present at the annual Rally, with a strong sense of responsibility we received the letter patent, we also visited several GLLP/GLRP Stores from north to south of Portugal, as well as the Prince Henry "The Navigator" Lodge, n. 9360 under UGLE. Here we had the honor of assisting the initiation of the youngest Portuguese Cornerstone (son of our Vice President).

We have kept a close collaboration, sometimes in person (such as in the anniversary, installation of the V. 'M.' of the R.L. St. John, nr. 115 of the UGLE District in Gibraltar), with the Gibraltar Chapter that urges us to practice with great nobility the genuine fraternity. Another moment that we must not forget to mention was the assistance and accompaniment given to the Foreign Ilr's who came to Portugal and also most recently in the 40th reunion of the Moto Clube de Faro , where we had the opportunity to meet all, perpetuating the longest Treaty of Alliance and Friendship in history.



It is also with humility that in our rides we make several visits to Portuguese humanitarian institutions, having for this effect raised through



the generosity of all around 3,000€, which were consequently fully given back to society, via the mentioned institutions.

Without great effort and mainly in a discreet manner, we are already 40 elements, among effective and corners, fact that leaves us very gratified, because this inclusion is the result of a resilient union.

We would like to highlight that all ladies are the godmothers of our events, and it is their responsibility to decide and lead the teams I charge for each event.

Our website includes our structure and pillars: [www.wsmba.pt](http://www.wsmba.pt)

As well as a Facebook page:

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

And Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/wsmba.pt/>

We invite all of you to visit them. Every day we make posts either of Freemasonry in general or of the motorcycling universe, among many other records of our events and meetings.

It is therefore with great honor that we thank all the privilege of perpetuating WSMBA in the history of this small (in size) but great country, where soon we aim to create 2 more chapters so that the growth can always progress in the light, in search of justice, perfection and truth.

See you soon



## Surrey Chapter Update

Hi all here is our update on what has been happening in no particular order....

National rally We had a great ride up on the Thursday with members from Iceni and Shires joining us, 9 bikes in total with 11 off us on the bikes, 10:am stands up and a pleasant ride in good weather ensued stopping every 70ish miles to allow for the usual fuel and leg stretches, the last stop circa 30 miles out we met with others on route, and we arrived around 15:30.



Tents up in the dry and a beer or three thereafter catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

Great effort by the team who organised it, the food, bands, and that lodge meeting things to stay in the good memory bank for a very long time.

And for Surrey along with the other chapters getting our charter presented was a humbling and wonderful moment, so thanks to those who were there and to our Surrey team which is doing well.

And there were three new rockets on site #7.5l with two being the TFC's, so we had to introduce #099 "JW's chair" to #325

A trip to Germany with the Shires team I took the Rocket out of the UK atmosphere into unchartered lands and had a wonderful time with the Shires team thanks to 39 Steps and his organisational skills and those that were there, some great riding and 2000 miles covered door to door.

The one thing that really stood out was how well we were treated by our German brothers and sisters, exceptional hospitality with WSMBA Germany coming from across their Country to

meet us and share in our experience, organising food, beer, and outings.



Many new friends made and memories of the Hartz mountains road system will stay with me for a long time. And a little bit of Autobahn usage where permitted allowed me to explore some of the rocket's power, admittedly not using all that was in the lump but enough to bring a smile to my face or was that just the force of the wind pulling the face out of shape.

I recommend seeing Germany and sharing with our European brothers in the values we all adhere to.

Natter night BBQ & meetings Our regular Natter nights are succesful mixing them up between private and open venues which has increased our visibility and gained us potential new members.

Biker-Down Two of us went to a biker down session that was organised by a member of the Surrey Fire brigade and learnt stuff, valuable stuff about accident management and how not to become a problem or potential accident victim if coming across a biker down or any other RTA scenario. I recommend locally looking into them and organising these for your teams.

Some shiny stuff and branded material: @ Red plume Our Comms man Zinger and his wife have invested into producing branded merchandise, clothing, patches etc and I already know some of you are linked into this. Its good quality and comes with recommendation and Zinger will not only tailor to your needs where possible but also offers a financial return to chapters via some wizardry he has in his booking and ordering process so please



consider visiting his site and seeing if you can be tempted to support our brother & sister in any way. Check them out <https://redplume.co.uk/>

Worlingham Fair Firstly, I want to say a big thank you to everyone that went to and helped with the Worlingham fair whilst I was in Spain helping the economy use up its Estrella reserves.

It is the first time Surrey have taken the lead on this event and the feedback Miyagi received was very positive and shows team Surrey did a good job, thanks also to our predecessors for the guidance and real time support.

Those there engaged with hundreds of people on the stand along with the neighbouring freemasonry display and TLC bear's display.

We also raised £85 for charity from our raffle, and the consensus is we made lots of people happy.

Milo led the bikes during the parade and onto the pitch and chef did a great job on the PA system telling the whole crowd about the Widows Sons.

All the Widows Sons and cornerstones who turned up did a great job showing a solid presence on the stand and mixing with the fair attendees, thanks to Surrey, Southeast, southern, East Kent who were all represented.

And it was the VP's birthday, and someone even bought him a beer to go with the free birthday cake donated by one of the other stallholders.

James Terry Court fun day Members of Surrey Widows Sons joined by members of the Surrey Noel motorcycle Lodge attended the family Fun Day at James Terry Court. Helping to raise much-needed funds for Masonic residential care home, we helped with set up and management of stalls,



interacting with the public and helping to make the day as enjoyable as possible for all, we even managed to recruit one of their number to join our ranks

Private car collection WS does traffic management In May at a top-secret location somewhere in a wet part of Surrey, Myself, Miyagi along with Scott Gibson, his partner Evelina and Shaun le sheep from Southeast went along to a charity fundraising event to one of the finest private car and motoring collections in the UK.



A good few million pounds worth of amazing and unique vehicles and associated memorabilia were on display, all collected by one passionate individual and his family, we helped with marshalling cars in and out of the venue and some general site management, the owner only opens the collection for charitable events, so it's rarely seen by the public and the two cancer related charities this was for looked to gain around £10,000 between them on the day.

In closing: when this gets to press, we will have said our farewells to brothers and others who have passed, for SE as a bigger area Tangents father Old Bob has ridden off to the GLA and the sudden passing of the Quarryman's inaugural President reinforces the need to be nice to each other, to enjoy our time here and live life knowing tomorrow is not a certainty. Take care ride well and see you soon.

S+F Yours BlackBeard [www.ws-surrey.co.uk](http://www.ws-surrey.co.uk)

## Sussex Chapter Update

It has been an amazing time for the Sussex Chapter. We have spent the last few months strengthening our relationships in Sussex and planning various events and activities, some of which I am pleased to share with you.

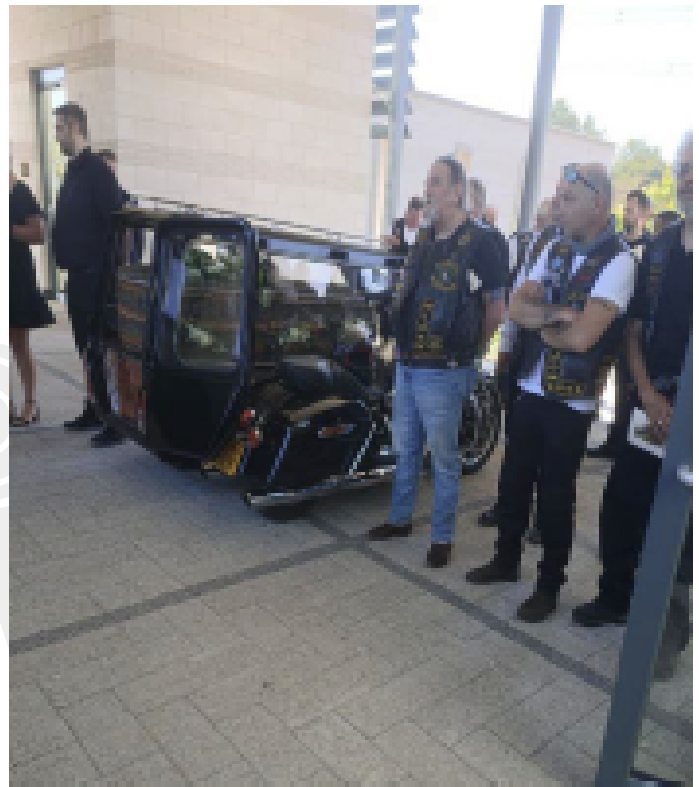
Vice President's BBQ.



Dan McLusky, our Vice President who is also a qualified chef, provided us with great food, music and a pool to swim in at his home on Sunday 14th August. You could tell where Dan's house was by the number of abandoned bikes and cars on the road leading to the property. This was a BBQ never to be forgotten!

Funeral of Bob Woods

On 12th August 2022 a few hundred Widows Sons members and bikers from other organisations from all over the region attended the funeral of our very dear friend Bob Woods. Bob was a devout Freemason and a very keen biker. His coffin was brought



to the Crematorium at Horam near Heathfield, East Sussex in a motorcycle hearse. A truly fitting last ride!

Bob along with our President Karl Hopper-Young, was a founder member of the Widow's Son's Masonic Bikers Association, South East, which sprung many other chapters in different parts of the South East

We were very lucky to have known the majority of members that were there to see Old Bob off and to celebrate his life. It also gave us the opportunity to renew old friendships and to forge new ones.

Natter Nights. These have recently been held at the Cock Inn, Old Uckfield Road, Ringmer, which is a wonderful country pub not far from Lewes and the landlord was very welcoming. We had plenty of room to park our bikes and our own room to deal with the business side before tucking in to some great food. We have also been blessed with good weather for riding to the location despite being a little hot in our leathers!



AGM. Our first AGM was held on Friday 15th August 2022.



As this date coincides with National Gummi Worms day, (these are a German confectionery), how else could we celebrate other than to take along and hand out a good supply of these sweets! We had a really good turn out

of officers and members, both Widows Sons and Cornerstones, some of whom joined by Zoom. We firstly attended to business matters by way of retirement and appointment of officers and discussed their reports. Once this was done it provided us with the ideal opportunity to chat about what we would like to do in the future by way of rideouts, fund raising ideas, etc.

Airbourne. With our friend Roger White of the Holywell Club (Sussex Light Blue Club), we will be attending the Eastbourne Airbourne 2022 being held for four days from 18th to 21st August. This is a fantastic event which attracts thousands of visitors each year to watch the incredible flying displays including the Red Arrows, military aircraft, wingwalkers, etc. The stand is on the Western Lawns which is right in the thick of the action with all static and arena displays being held on the doorstep which should help to increase footfall. We will be representing and promoting the benefits of Widows Sons and Freemasonry.

Clay Pigeon Shoot. Once again we are holding with the help of Roger White, a clay pigeon shoot on Sunday 11th September at 8 am. This year we are making it more of a family day with a BBQ and music. This takes place on land opposite the Custom Café on the



A259 near Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex. To date we have 50 people coming along. Starting at 8 am with breakfast at the cafe, we then walk across the road to start shooting clays. After prizes and trophies are awarded, the music and BBQ will commence.

Appointment of officers. We have an amazing complement of officers supporting our Chapter who spend as much time as possible promoting the Chapter and of the fundraising events. We recently welcomed John Button as our Chaplain. The current line-up of officers is; Karl Hopper-Young, President; Dan McLusky, Vice President; Allon Gilbert, Secretary; John Button, Chaplain; 'Top Gun', Charity Steward; Simon Rideout, Road Captain and Andy Dalziel, Almoner.

We are extremely fortunate to have the skills and talents of Simon Rideout as our Road Captain. Simon is a very experienced member of the motorcycle division of the Sussex Police Force. Simon also provides great support with our rideouts and swears that he has not changed his name to reflect the cover he gives!

Many of our Chapter have had the opportunity to ride behind Simon on a number of spontaneous Sunday morning pop up rides he organises which enables us to admire his great riding skills in the way he handles his bike. We thoroughly enjoyed the rides through the country, the company of friends and even more so the full English breakfast on the way!

Since taking on the role, our Charity Steward has liaised with and established a good strong relationship with the Children's Respite Trust, the Conquest Hospital, Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital, Queen Victoria Hospital, Demelza Trust and the Chailey Heritage Foundation. We have made numerous donations to these organisations in the past and will continue to do so in the future. These organisations are included in our Easter Eggs delivery and the Christmas Toy Run.

Raffles. We continue to support DocBike with the aid of our friend John Allsopp. The DocBike charity combines a highly qualified (consultant level) doctor or critical care paramedic with two wheels to reduce deaths and serious injuries on our roads due to motorcycle collisions. Wherever possible, this doctor or paramedic also works on the local air ambulance. It is part of their every-day job, to

treat and save the most severely injured and sick patients and help them to reach hospital alive

Matthew 25 Mission supports homeless and disadvantaged people from their base in Eastbourne; and SERV Sussex (bloodrunners), deliver both blood and expressed breast milk to hospitals. We are also keen supporters of Barford Court RMBI Care Home.



MTSFC (Masonic Fishing Charity). I have joined with my fellow motorcyclists in working with them in support of the Masonic Fishing Charity. This organisation takes disabled and disadvantaged children together with their carers, including those from special needs schools out on fishing trips and when they get back onto dry land their catch is cooked al fresco on the beach.

Preston Park Softball Tournament. We spent a wonderful morning in Brighton on Sunday 3rd July meeting friends from other Lodges to hold a softball tournament. Some players were very experienced and some had never hit

a softball before, but all that mattered was that we had fun out and a bit of exercise in the open air.

Donation. We recently met with Mike Alderson from Sussex Province at the Normandy Centre in Horsham to hand him a donation of £800 from the Chapter which comes in support of the work undertaken by Province. Mike's dedication to his role and the work that Province do is inspiring.

Membership. The Sussex Chapter continues to grow, we currently have 26 members with another three potential members waiting in the wings. We have recently contacted, with the agreement of Sussex Province, 27 Lodges and meeting venues based in East and West Sussex to enquire whether we could send them framed pictures and / or beer mats and business cards for displaying in their venue and advertising the Chapter.

Forthcoming rideouts. We have three Sunday morning rideouts planned, the first is to the Kent Museum of Freemasonry based in Canterbury on Sunday 18th September; the second is to the world famous Ace Café on the North Circular Road in London on 25th September; and the third is to Brooklands Museum in Weybridge, Surrey on 2nd October. All rides start at 8 am with meeting points to join fellow riders arranged along the route.

If you would like to join us on any of these rides which are open to all, please see the flyer below for contact details, we would be delighted to meet and to ride with you.

**WIDOWS SONS MBA - SUSSEX CHAPTER**

*Rideouts*

- Masonic Museum Canterbury  
Sunday, 18th September 2023
- ACE Cafe London  
Sunday, 25th September 2023
- Brooklands, Weybridge  
Sunday 2nd October 2023

Fancy joining us for a rideout?

Friends and Families welcome

Contact Jo for details: 01323 441788 [secretary@wsmbasussex.com](mailto:secretary@wsmbasussex.com)



## West Kent Chapter Update

On the 16th of April the Province of West Kent was shocked and saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of WBro Daniel Spencer, PSGD, APGM. Although not a Widows Son Dan was an ex-police motorcyclist and showed a lot of interest in our Christmas toy run in 2021. Having contacted the family ten members of Widows Sons escorted his coffin from his home to the crematorium. We were honoured to be asked to lead him on the last part of his journey. We received this message from his sister



I wanted to say a huge thank you for Dan's escort yesterday. It was quite the send-off. He would have loved it and it was a wonderful and generous gesture. Please extend my thanks to all the other riders too. My family and myself are very grateful to you all.

In June, the Pastoral Care Team organized its 6th PSA testing event, Widows Sons West Kent took the 314 sample from the testing centre to a lab in Kings Cross in London. Without our input the samples would have had to be taken by private courier at quite some expense.



On a much lighter note, also in June, whilst attending a Provincial event our President was given a TLC Teddy Bear. He has now become our Mascot and he is called Boaz. You may have seen him enjoying a beer at the nationals, and he goes with us on ride outs. One of our

ladies has even got him a little outfit and the sun hat is much appreciated in this heat. He has his own Facebook profile and please feel free to send Boaz Bear a friend request.

Our Christmas toy run is being planned and comms will soon be going out to all Secretaries and Charity Stewards across West Kent by the provincial comms team



## Widows Sons Rally T-Shirts

We have a number of rally T shirts spare in a range of sizes. If you would like to be the owner of one of these special garments or would like another one please email your request to [wsrally2022@gmail.com](mailto:wsrally2022@gmail.com)

Cost will be £15 each plus p&p

Requests will be dealt with in order of mail received date and time. Payment instruction will be via PayPal only and same address as rally tickets. Do not pay until you get an email response as some sizes may not be available. Early bird = lucky



# RTTW

West Mids Chapter are once again hosting Butties and a Brew at Tamworth Masonic hall from 08:00 on 1st October (RTTW) - £5 with a choice of Bacon, Sausage or Mushroom rolls (not combinations).

We need the numbers so the caterer can order the correct amount, can you please work within your respective chapters to collate your food orders, and return me your order forms via one contact per chapter please (i.e. Sec or Pres).

Order forms have been circulated to the Presidents page.

Ride in from the rooms (29 Lichfield St, Tamworth B79 7QE - <https://w3w.co/spoil.horses.insert>) to RTTW will be scheduled about 11:00 and like previous years, we will hold a short brief (even though there are only 2 roundabouts and 1 left turn) just before departure.



# We're raising £50,000 to support 3 great causes. We're walking to France. 230 MILES IN 5 DAYS

We are really excited for this outrageous undertaking! Our goal is to walk to France from Bedford within 5 days. The total journey is around 230 miles, starting from The Keep in Bedford travelling ground to reach the Ancre Cemetery in France situated at the heart of The Somme. Our goal is to set out on the 9th November 2022 and arrive in time for the last post on remembrance Sunday.



230 miles in 5 days in November seems crazy right? Sure, it is! However our route follows that of those in the First World War who journeyed to France, marching into battle and paying the ultimate price

for our country and our freedoms.

Please give generously for these worthy causes, any monies raised over our target will be sent to the British Armed Forces benevolent fund.

We will be splitting the £50,000 total between three very worthwhile causes; the first is the MIND mental health charity, the second is in support of Martin's brother-in-law Dan, who has been tragically diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, the third is the MCF 2026.

Our team consists of:

Martin Shaw, James Lees and a couple of other serving members of the Armed forces who will be joining us intermittently through the route

Links to the charities can be found here:



MIND <https://www.mind.org.uk/>

MCF Festival <https://www.bedfordshirefreemasons.org/2026-festival/>

Dan's story: <https://www.thecomet.net/news/help-dan-living-with-cancer-8636670>

Army Benevolent Fund: <https://soldierscharity.org/>

For those wanting to sponsor on a per mile basis, we will cap the trip at 230 miles! Even if we have to cover more ground!

We will be sleeping rough on the route, again to match what our ancestor soldiers had to endure, our packs, our boots, our socks and our strong determined Spirit!

We know that there are many worthwhile causes to support with your hard earned money, we are extremely appreciative therefore of any contribution that you can give.



# BIO-HAZARD

Possibly the ugliest Rat-Bike in the WSMBA? – The gauntlet has been thrown!



What is a Rat-Bike? To be dubbed such, a motorcycle must have about it an air of chaos. There are no rules (although cleaning is generally frowned upon). A rat bike does not merely reflect the singularity of its rider, though. It is a culmination of all the places it has been and the people who have donated to it. Each bike is a two-wheeled time capsule...a rolling museum.

Many align them with the post apocalyptic, Mad Max films

They are motorcycles that have fallen apart over time and have been kept on the road and maintained for little or no cost by employing roadside 'bush' fixes and improvised repairs, with little or no consideration given to appearance.

It MUST however be legal.

Bio-Hazard crawled out of the proverbial primordial soup back in the seventies. It is still a work in progress and continues to evolve. Once you have spent a bit of time in its company, you build up a certain resistance to most infections!

Being first registered in 1971 it is exempt most modern MOT regs, but it does have one. It started its life as a Suzuki 850, and later replaced by a GS850 shaft drive. It has a one-off hard tail frame with 'superior'

Halfords Spanner rear-end bracing.  
The four into one stainless exhaust is softly muted by a 'Tip find' Fire Extinguisher end can. It boasts Harley 5G tanks  
Yamaha spoke wheels  
Saddle – yes well, Dobbin has not missed it-yet.  
Switch gear – unknown, I found them in a box of bits  
Aluminium slab yokes (the only bit that does not rust)  
Handlebars bent to shape from a Sky satellite-dish mounting pole.  
Directional Support is assisted by Rat-Nav (my old Scouts compass)  
Side Stand from Madame Tussauds  
Random rats – from my kids over the years I accept it will evoke a 'Marmite' type love it or loathe it reaction or just a plain gag response from many.  
The one thing for sure is that wherever I go, and whichever event I attend, it will have a crowd formed around it within seconds.

Postscript – My dear lady wife flatly refuses to travel more than a mile on it, so she has insisted I purchase a second bike that she could pillion on 'comfortably' and she would go halves!!!

It is called 'playing a blinder'

Enter the Rocket 3 – who is laughing now?



# Next issue

The Spring issue of **THE Son** will be published on 1<sup>st</sup> December 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 17<sup>th</sup> December** 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>