

THE Son



Issue 10
Summer 2023



Brethren all, a lot has happened since our last edition of the Son.

A Coronation fit for a King, Meet the Freemasons Initiative gathering pace, Chapter AGM's creating new Presidents, A Parisi Wedding, Charity Rides, more Chapters consulting on formation, European bonding rides, Branding Ceremony Memories, RTTW Registration Open, and so on. A lot of positive activity that is slowly beginning to get us noticed to a far wider audience than the usual "biking community" as the positive force for the good of Freemasonry that you and I know we are. And with that recognition comes the responsibility of always portraying the WSMBA in the best possible light and supporting Freemasonry at every opportunity. I firmly believe that we are on course to become as established as any other Masonic Association but with the caveat we are the only visibly recognisable one out there in the public domain. We have our patch, with or without the G, and those that were plagiarising it have moved on to other designs without us having to resort to legal action.

1st August 2024 is our 20th Anniversary and am sure by then we will have achieved even more promoting the good of Freemasonry, raising funds for Charity and growing our reputation with our Masonic Rulers. We already have a standard by which we allow qualifying members to join us and for that we rely on the individual Chapters to maintain. From time to time a bad apple does

slip in, and whilst it is unfortunate the synergy of our Association is now far more robust and will always prevail against an individual. Often the lament is they feel wronged, without considering how their actions have caused the issues in the first place, and I know we are very forgiving and do try to give a second or third chance.... But there is a limit and as referred to above, we are being noticed more and considered a positive force, so maintain the standard we must. We have two very experienced Vice Chairs in Andy Hunn, North, and Harry Blinston, South, standing by to assist with membership issues so do not be afraid to approach the Secretary Back Office, Gavin Crickett, in the first instance and present the facts, and rest assured a problem shared is a problem halved.

We are now nudging £17,500 towards the £20k total pledged to Lifelites, so if your Chapter is intending to contribute a donation of any size please do so as we want to move on to the next Lifelites project as agreed at the AGM. I will be meeting with the CEO of Lifelites very soon. To discuss the options and report back. Donations are via the MCF quoting Chapter name as a reference and E1072 is the relief chest number. Let the Treasurer, Martin Ward, know when you have done so and he can check to make sure it is correctly allocated.

Its official, the Constitutional Chapter No. 55 has now been granted the prefix Widows Sons. And on Friday 21st June 2024 we will celebrate the Chapter's 150th Anniversary. it is hoped that many of you will be able to attend the meeting to celebrate a significant milestone that was nearly erased four times due to falling numbers. The Chapter's future is now secure thanks to the support of the WSMBA.

One of our members, Steve Dixon, is also a member of the Events Team at MetGL. Following on from the very successful Meet the Masons open day outside FMH with four bikes on show, he was tasked with recruiting volunteers to help with the 180 members of the public attending

FMH for a presentation on joining a London Lodge. Of the 17 in the Team charged with milling around in the vestibule to engage with the attendees 8 Widows Sons and a Cornerstone made up the numbers and feedback from the powers that be suggest a 40% sign up rate which is the best figures ever for such a recruitment drive. Another example of the WSMBA contributing to Freemasonry in a positive manner.

The Constitution review has stalled and I take full responsibility for that. Life got in the way but I am now clear to help the team get through the next revisions. As we go along WSMBA experiences are also helping to fine tune the end result. What is needed eventually is a robust Constitution that covers everything without being too wieldy, and at the same time easy to digest, which is the hard part!

Our cuts at Lodge Meetings and Festive Boards is a growing phenomenon. However, it is not universally accepted and is ultimately at the discretion of PGM's and/or Master of the Lodge.

What is encouraging though is it is happening more and more. Especially as our Masonic Rulers are keen to revitalise Freemasonry and recognise the attraction of Special Interest lodges etc. Just keep chipping away as and when you can and keep the photos and reports coming in.

Our quarterly PGB Zoom is due second Sunday of the month being the 11th June at 7pm and I hope to see many, if not all of you, on line to chew the fat and bring anything to the table to discuss. One item will certainly be the National Rally in Hull. Please keep pushing it as it is our major event and we need to preserve it as such.

In the meantime ride safe and keep the shiny side up.

Sincerely & Fraternally Yours

W. Bro. Gregory Kirby SLGR.

National Chairman



We are delighted to have Widows Sons listed as one of our Platinum Partners. You're in good company with the eleven other organisations and entire Freemason Provinces. We are very proud to feature you on our new partners webpage. Your initial £10,000 donation is already being put to work, helping us to give children like Talia, a chance to play, create and communicate with her mum, brother, other family members and hospice staff.

Thanks to your ongoing fundraising we have started to plan a delivery of technology to fifteen children's hospice across the country later this year. Each technology package is made bespoke in partnership with each hospice to ensure that it is most suited to the children in their care. When the time comes to install and provide high quality training for hospice staff, we hope to invite some of you along to meet our partners, the children they support and their families.

I know that those of you who have had a chance to try out Lifelites-donated technologies will understand that this has the power to make a considerable difference to these children and can be used by them during any respite care or end-of-life care. Together, with you, we have the privilege of enabling these children to have moments of connection and joy, right up until their final days.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing and upcoming fundraising efforts to meet your £20,000 fundraising target.

Rob Lightfoot, CEO of Lifelites



Digital Donations

You are, no doubt, all aware that we are collecting for Lifelites over the next few years and aim to raise £20,000 by the end of 2025. To aid this we have opened a relief chest with the Masonic Charities Fund which means we can claim the 25% gift aid for every applicable donation. To make collecting for relief chests easier the MCF have created a QR code for us that you can see here.

This QR code will make collecting from chapters, lodges and individuals much easier, all you have to do is take a photo of this card, keep it on your phone and show it to people when they say they want to donate. Use this wherever and wherever you are, so long as you have an Internet connection!

The benefits of Digital Donations

- No need to hold cash or have unnecessary physical contact.
- Fast and simple donation process.
- Donate before, during or after all Masonic and non-Masonic events as and when convenient (in the middle of a lodge meeting might be frowned on, for example).
- Donors can keep a record of all their donations by requesting email receipts.

Whether you use the QR code or follow the URL <https://gtap.uk/e1072> you will be taken to a web page where you need to provide certain details. The following will help you to help those who are filling those details in.

- The address details are obvious.
- Name of Lodge/Chapter – This is the donor's lodge and is used to keep tabs on how much a given lodge or chapter has donated. If the donor is not a freemason then just put your own lodge.
- Number of Lodge/Chapter to be credited – The number of the lodge or chapter they provided in the previous box.
- Appeal name – This can be left blank since we are only collecting for Lifelites.



West Mids Bad Penny volunteers services

Taken from Facebook article: <https://bit.ly/3Bj4D06>
Posted by Stafford & Rugeley Sea Cadets.

"How incredibly humbling this week was! We posted about getting help to clear a dead tree from our access to the river and, boy, did you come through!

I want to pass our thanks to ABA cranes and Hill Tree Care who donated their time and equipment to help resolve this issue, and with such flexibility and care.



I also wanted to mention specifically the contact from Hill Tree Care as he was due to work nights after being at the unit and was also expecting the birth of his child that day.

We'll skip over the insanity of allowing our UMT Chair a go of operating the crane. Even with close supervision, that's a brave decision (she definitely knows left from right, right?)



If anyone ever needs any tree stuff or lifty stuff doing, I couldn't recommend ABA cranes and Hill Tree Care highly enough, what incredible charity and quality of work.

Thank you so much!"



Rob is a shining example of how Masons not only support and encompass Charitable works, but also how they can support local communities by devoting time and resource to help.

Rob is currently a Bad Penny, but very supportive at West Midlands Chapter events and is very much looking forward to his 3rd Degree in November.



Nottinghamshire Chapter Roundup

Welcome to the first submission to the Son from the new Nottinghamshire Chapter. The Widows Sons in the UK was born in Notts in 2014 with the formation of the National Chapter. As the Widows Sons expanded in the UK National Chapter lost it's relevance and Notts was left without it's own Chapter. That has all changed and it feels like the Widows Sons have come home thanks to the hard work of the Founders. There is still a lot to do but there is a great enthusiasm within the members and the future is looking good.

AGM & Charter



A Charter for a Nottinghamshire Chapter was approved by the Presidents at the PGB AGM in Derby. President 'Tricky' & Secretary 'Sleepy' are pictured with Greg & Peter and the new charter which will be officially presented at the rally in July.

New Members



At the March meeting of the Elliott Lodge 8569 (Mansfield) Bro Gavin Kington was raised to the sublime degree of a master mason. This qualified him to become a Widows Son and he was duly presented with his patches along with W Bro John Pawlik, Chairman of the Provincial Charity Committee. The patching was conducted by W Bro Richard Wheelhouse, (President). Gavin and John become the first new members of the Nottinghamshire Chapter of the Widows Sons. There was a healthy contingent of Nottinghamshire Widows

Sons at the meeting and also the President and Almoner of the Leicestershire & Rutland Chapter.

In April we patched Bro Nick Jardine.



Easter Egg Run



Our first Provincial Charity Run was held on Saturday 25th March. Gathering at PGL, Goldsmith Street and joined by Widows Sons from Leicestershire and Rutland the group were welcomed by the PGM for Nottinghamshire. Philip Marshall and his good lady Ann, who had kindly provided coffee on a chilly morning.



The purpose of the event was to deliver Easter Eggs, provided by the Chapter, to Fountindale School near Mansfield. Fountindale is a school for children and young people who are 3 to 18 years old who have profound and multiple learning needs, complex physical and medical needs and sensory needs. There are currently 76 pupils and there was an egg for each of them. The PGM also provided an Easter Egg that he requested to be delivered and presented to the staff in recognition of their hard work. We were waved on our way by Philip and Ann and rode up the A60 to Fountindale. We were warmly welcomed by a large and enthusiastic group of pupils, parents and staff on arrival. There were plenty of smiles from the children who were delighted at being able to sit on the bikes. A lovely thank you card was presented to our President, Tricky, and was gratefully received. This may well become an annual event and maybe a toy run could be arranged at Christmas.



Big Brunch

Clumber Lodge 8199 hold a Big Brunch twice a year. Who is going to turn down a nose bag like that? Not a Widows Son. So we went up to support the event. Clumber use the Brunch to show potential masons what we get up to and answer any of their questions in relaxed surroundings. I hope we didn't put anyone off!



AGM

On Sunday the 16th April we held our first AGM to do all the official stuff and vote in the committee. It was well attended, probably because free chip cobs were on offer!



Natter Nights

We have held a couple of very successful natter nights where we have been joined by members of Merlin & L&R. It's been difficult finding a 'home' but we have settled on the Wheelhouse pub in Wollaton, Notts. The landlord is very biker friendly. He supports Blood Bikes and has biker events through the summer that we hope to get involved with.



the other side is the village of Castleton where we took the opportunity to visit the chippy.



Winnats & Snake Pass Ride Out

Our April ride out was a trip into the Peak District with a ride through the stunning Winnats Pass. Through



After lunch we set off for the famous Snake Pass, riding it from the Glossop side through to Ladybower Reservoir. It was a little damp, but not too bad and the pass was not busy.

There was a quick stop at the other end of the pass before we set off on our separate ways for home.

Coming Up

Next month's ride will be to Skegvegas where we hope to meet up with Lincs Imps.

We hope to have a good contingent at the National Rally.

There are new enquiries to join us so we also hope to be patching more members over the coming months.



Guernsey and Alderney Chapter Chapter Roundup

The **Guernsey and Alderney Chapter** of the 'Widows Sons Masonic Motorcycle Association' met recently at the new Patois Café at Sausmarez Manor to present some charity money.

The charities, which were nominated by Vice-President Andre Quintal, received cheques for £750 each, and were the 'Guernsey Counselling Service' and 'Bailiwick Social Prescribing'. This money was raised from regular rides around the Bailiwick and also from annual membership subscriptions.

Guernsey Counselling Service were represented by Ashley Rawles. The charity aims to bring hope to those in the community who are going through a difficult time, to enable them to appreciate their value as an individual and as a person of worth, and to help them to take responsibility for their own lives and to reach their full potential.

Bailiwick Social Subscribing were represented by Trish De Carteret and Jo Hollyer-Hill. The charity assists with linking people to non-medical

support, helping them to improve their health and wellbeing.

The photographs show the ladies receiving their cheques from President Nemer Kharoubi, whilst sitting on Lee Corbet's Triumph Rocket, and the group of bikers include Rob Steen, the proprietor of Patois, who is also a fellow member of the Widows Sons.

Anyone who is interested in joining us as an Associate, or with a view to becoming involved, is welcome to get in touch via our Facebook page "Widows Sons – Guernsey & Alderney"



East Kent Chapter Roundup

What a busy time it has been for East Kent in the last couple of months, more in the Lodge than out on bikes as well! Although that hasn't stopped us and we have still been out and about!

Let's start with the bikes, a few of us have had a couple of off the cuff rides, to blow away the winter cobwebs, but the first major ride of the year was the annual Easter Egg run. This took East Kent from down in Margate visiting The Millmead Childrens Centre, to Canterbury and The Rising Sun Domestic Abuse Charity, to Footprints and Strode Park in Herne who both care for children and adults with severe disabilities. We had a chilly, but dry run of over 100 miles and delivered over 400 Easter Eggs on the day!



A week later, we had been asked to have a stand and bring a couple of bikes along to a street party! The Gillingham Street Angels, who we have supported for a number of years, had arranged this. So, we duly turned up with bikes and plenty more Easter Eggs to give out to the children of Medway. The event was superb, a couple of trestle tables with



Easter Eggs, Frog playing his Ukulele, good weather and bustling crowds all day long for us to get the message about the Widows Sons and Freemasonry in East Kent out there – oh and giving out another 500+ Easter Eggs helped as well...

Onto Lodge activities... April was a VERY busy month for us in Lodge! We were honoured to be able to witness 2 first time Masters and we had great representation at both installation meeting from East Kent Widows Sons.



Penguin set the bar at the Kings Navy Lodge 2901, based in Chatham, a great ceremony on a Monday evening, which had 12 Widows Sons in attendance. This was closely followed on the Saturday afternoon by a trip to the Isle of Sheppey (we all had our jabs and took our passports) to the Nore Command Lodge 9199 where Babysitter was also installed as Master for the first time, again with 12 Widows Sons in attendance. The evening finishing rather late with a good karaoke session after the festive board.





and conduct an interactive lecture to the Brethren of Ardea Lodge (and a good number of Widows Sons visiting). This included the background of the Widows Sons, what we do, an explanation of our patches and the showstopper, our Roadnames and how we got them – at which point he went on to include Frog, Lama, Mr Miyagi and of course the explanation of his own! It has gone that well that it's already been booked in by another lodge and we have a couple more interested (all for a small donation into our Toy Run pot).

We have also had a number of other lodge visits, Belvedere Lodge invited us to a Crime and Craft talk.

We have also had our first Provincial

Our VP Messiah was a joining member of a Lodge in Maidstone and happened to be joining the same night as an initiation, the APGM was present and got a glowing example of EKWS.

We have also had the pleasure of presenting a lecture on the Widows Sons and especially East Kent Widows Sons (thanks Nails over at Pilgrims for the basis) to the Ardea Lodge in Herne Bay. We were approached at the Easter Egg run and asked if this was possible – of course it is! So, our Tyler, Bluebell, took it upon himself to get the history of WSMBA

Visit to the Hundred of Hoo Widows Sons Mark Lodge – which was that busy and full of fun that there wasn't a single photo taken on the night!

Plenty more planned for the next couple of months – with 11 of us heading to The Pilgrims Rally at the end of May top of the agenda!

Andy '3rd Gear' Pilbeam – President



Surrey Chapter Update

Hi all here's our update on what's been happening in no particular order....

Having missed the last two runs of the SON for a variety of reasons here is our 2023 so far.

National AGM Myself Miyagi & Chef attended for Surrey and a productive time was had made all the better by the friendships rekindled and newly made, we even managed to keep Miyagi awake this time as we limited the on train imbibements to just one bottle of scotch one or maybe two bottles of wine on top of the festive board drink at the C55 meeting before we found the train.

Branding 2023 We decided to commit the greatest sin and attend in one vehicle, a scout minibus, thanks to Miyagi for sourcing it through our connection with the sea cadets. Four helpers and four brandies, enough camping gear, beer and snacks saw us on the road from 0800 Fri arriving 12 hours later. What a great event meeting old and new friends alike, then the return trip on the Sunday morning, I even brought along a defibrillator which worried our brandies the whole trip, thankfully it stayed unused but was a sensible addition considering the location and demographic of attendees at the event.



A long ride One of our members "Ardball" along with 6 other riders and 2 RAPID coaches took on a good ride "RAPID NC 500 challenge " in aid of Alzheimers research uk covering 1000 miles in 4 days at the last count raising £6458. Taking in some tough roads and plenty of weather conditions between Tebay, Scotland, Cumbria anti clockwise around the NC500 up to John O'Groats. Well done all.

Easter saw a group of us deliver eggs, a cheque for £500 and circa £1500 worth of stationary to St

Christophers at Guildford, we were well received and brought smiles to staff and residents alike.



Surrey AGM We held this on the 15th April at Nutfield Masonic centre who also fed us well after the event, 13 members in attendance plus a little Ging who was Milo's pillion, and group photographer and "roast master" at the festive board. Re-elected were me as Prez, Miyagi - VP, Chef - Secretary Hagrid - Treasurer, Our Road Captain changes to Zinger, with Yeoy as his assistant, a new office formed - Zed as Almoner. Thanks, Surrey, for your faith in me and the team.



The reason our outgoing Road Captain Vampire stood down was due to the tragic passing of his

wife Elaine in Feb after losing her battle with cancer, as a cornerstone she will be missed by all but not forgotten, thanks to all those who attended her funeral to support Vampire and the family.

Various rides and outings Members have attended the West Wales Consecration, the Presidents Ball, St Georges day event for Lifelites hosted by our National President and the obligatory rides out around the Surrey roads the outer Counties taking in the ACE, Moto Legends, Rykers, Loomies, Newlands etc all getting us visible in varied weather conditions but always with a smile and cold hands for those of us not holding heated grips...



Some sad bits “Vampire” losing his wife, “Zed” losing his mum and “Master” his brother and Tangent his other inlaw, our thoughts were and are with them. “Stalldit” had his ride stolen from off his drive, “Tangent” slid his bike down the road and “Master” got taken off his ride on the M4. Thankfully both riders were not badly hurt and are back in the saddle, and Stalldit has a new ride.

The BIG HOUSE Miyagi along with the Met promotions team came up with a plan – Park 6 bikes on the pavement outside of Philomena’s pub which is opposite UGLE, build an advertising stand around them and see what happens. A great day



with lots of interest from passers-by seeing free masonry on the street, attracting interest from all around the world and even a few WS members from far and wide sporting their cuts came to say hello. Potential new masons both male and female, potential new WS members as well. We were even called devil worshipers at one point. Recognition from UGLE exec was soon fed back to us and they want to have us do the same again a few times a year, so try to get your own provinces to follow suit.

Rolling Thunder just a couple of us attended at Windsor, parking on the long walk along with a few hundred/1000 bikes, great to see other WS Chapters also there enjoying the moment, then the ride into London which I skipped, well supported event and probably a one off being allowed on the castle grounds



Surrey WS anniversary ride. It is 70 miles from my door to Loomies and even when raining its not that bad, however 3.5 hours and 140 miles of pothole filled wet slippery back roads later we finally arrived to see a multitude of WS chapters there as well, so that made me smile and forget my wetness. A good ride in not so good conditions, however as per the biking gods the sun came out when we arrived... thanks to all chapters for being there to greet us, sorry for taking so darned long.



Hastings Bike Day A good 10-hour day out for those who could make it with many bikes on show and many clubs etc mixing together, as well as a scenic ride back through some great countryside.

Charity so far this year: £500 paid into Lifelites, £500 to Shooting Stars plus £1500 arts & craft things, £100 Ardballs Alzheimer's charity, £100 In memory of Elaine sponsoring Vampire who is taking part in The Banham Marsden March, other events in the pipeline so will write up after they happen.

Widows Sons Constitutional Chapter 55 after 3 years being in the main chair I escaped well almost but now it's handed over to Fred another WS stalwart, the chapter is WS members strong and growing and will be 150 years young next year and we want as many WS chapter members to attend as possible as we are planning to fill a big room in FMH, more on that later in the year.

Noel Surrey Motorcycle Lodge 2444 is still drawing a crowd and being well supported by other bikers and WS chapters, we also had a great 1st meeting of the year which also involved a call off and patching of a mix of WS full members and cornerstones

WSMBA Surrey Membership now stands at 21 full members 14 cornerstones and 3 in the pipeline.

In closing: Some highs and lows but looking to the positive Surrey is here to stay and making a positive contribution to society, thanks to the hard work by many, Take care ride well and see you soon.

S+F Yours BlackBeard www.ws-surrey.co.uk



Widows Sons Shires Chapter Charity BBQ

On Saturday the 6th May 2023, two momentous events took place. The more famous of these was the coronation of King Charles III. The second was the slightly less high profile charity BBQ of the Widows Sons Shires Chapter.

As in previous years, the venue for the event was the Barleycorn Pub in Slough. The other key event, together with inclement weather, meant that the BBQ was competing for both volunteers and customers, but with the coronation on TV, great food and a disco in the evening the event was a great success, raising £780 for Blood Bikes - the highest amount since the event started.

Shires chapter also donated £50 to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance which is the chosen charity of the Barleycorn in recognition of their support of the event.

Special thanks go to the fantastic four who braved the elements to man the BBQ with only a gazebo to protect them (thanks Paul Smith), Peter Parsons, Dave Shorten, Mick Shoard and Martin Ward. Those that couldn't attend due to family or other commitments showed their support with donations to enable purchase of the food and gas.



Portugal Chapter Branding Experience

Experiencing the Branding Ceremony hosted by Widows Sons Scotland was truly unforgettable. As I held onto the guidance of a Brother during the ceremony, I felt a mixture of emotions, scents, and evocations that stripped away all preconceptions and marked me for life.

The ceremony, which takes place in mid to late March at the impressive medieval site of Duncarron, is a unique rite of passage for members of Widows Sons. The organization's founders put their own Scottish twist on the ceremony. Despite the harsh Scottish winter weather, attendees brave the cold to witness their fellow Brothers become Branded Members.

Camping in tents in sub-zero temperatures may seem miserable, but the warmth of camaraderie and brotherhood makes the experience truly unforgettable. As someone who had the privilege of experiencing the ceremony, I feel a deep sense of thanks and responsibility to uphold the values of Widows Sons. I am grateful for the lasting memories and the bonds of brotherhood that were formed, and I will strive to honor the organization's unique Scottish twist on the Branding Ceremony and the Brothers and the brothers who accompanied me.

My trip occurred precisely the weekend before the WSMBA.PT meeting, because besides coming refreshed and willing to spread the emotions and the spirit of your experience, above all you wanted and managed to implement the values of the same, through the various moments shared with family and above all, in the ceremony of reception to new members that will be equally marked in all who participated.

It was a time of togetherness, friendship and commitment to our association. It was a weekend that will certainly stay in our memory for a long time.

José

President Portugal Chapter



Burslem Chapter - Installation & Exaltation

Burslem Chapter 98 is continuing to strengthen its place in Staffordshire as a Motorcycle themed Royal Arch Chapter.

6th April 2023 saw West Mids Secretary, E. Comp. Clive Andrews-Lewis installed as First Principal, backed by a strong WS Team of E. Comps Tony Coates as Second Pricipal, E. Comp. Ralph Howarth (who is the Deputy Grand Superintendant for Staffordshire), Julian Lowe, Gary Comer and Comps Jon Sealey and Steve Watts.



The chapter is steadily growing and is unusual in Staffordshire for having it's own banner - proudly displaying it's Burslem potteries heritage, and it's reincarnation as a motorcycling Chapter.

In May, they were delighted to welcome and exalt Comp. Darren Ashworth. Darren came via Cheshire Chapter - and can be easily spotted by his brown Leather Cuts, however, West Mids won't hold it against him...



And now for something completely different!!

Is that a Fokker??

Well not quite!

Sunday 21st May 2023 saw motorcyclists from all over the UK take part in the “Distinguished Gentleman’s Ride” it was also the first official outing for the latest creation of DFX Moto – Cyle Works, based in Maidstone, Kent.

Its creator and friend Marcellous of the South East Chapter has spent many months transforming a Kawaski to a 360cc aircraft powered curiosity which is fully road legal. The “360 Radial Nerve”

It stole the limelight from the vintage Harleys at the assembly point of the Maidstone DGR. It will be attending along with other creations built by Marcellous at the “Masons and Motorbikes” event being held at Paddock Wood Masonic Centre, Kent on 9th September 2020.

If you want one of these, a word of caution it only does about 10mpg!!!

At the time of writing this several journalists are lined up to write an article about this machine, so the “Son” has the scoop!

Gavin “Buzz” Crickett



BMF Discount Code 2023

From the guys at BMF!



The club discount code for 2023 is
CLB23CHZ

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



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

Chapter	President	Roadname
Development Officer	Peter Younger	not small far far away
Anglia	Glen Oliver	Olly
Beda	Jeff Boote	Snatch
Cheshire	Peter Wright	
Cumbria	Michael Turner	
Dorset/Quarrymen	Paul Bishop	Reaper
Durham	Andy Reed	
East Kent	Andy Pilbeam	3rd Gear
<i>East Midlands</i>	<i>East Mids to split into Derbys, Notts and L&R Chapters</i>	
Gibraltar	Darren Laguea	TBA
Gloucester & Bristol	Antony Brookes	Spook
Guernsey and Alderney	Nemer Kharroubi	
Iceni	Martin Cargill	Banger
Ireland	Richard Webber	
Leicestershire & Rutland	John Torley	Habibi
Lincs Imps	Ian Wilson	Tug
Merlin Derbyshire	John Perridge	Grumpy
Netherlands	Jan Engbersen	
Norfolk	Martin Culverhouse	
North Wales	Alan Doyle	
North West	Andy Baxendale	Baxi
Northamptonshire	Mick Vokes	Elmer
Northumbria	Michael Ewart	
Nottinghamshire	Richard Wheelhouse	Tricky
Parisi	Dave Brocklesby	Dave Dave
Pilgrims	Phil Jones	Nails
Portugal	Jose Santos	
Ridings	Andrew Simister	Gremlin
Shires	Peter Parsons	39 Steps
South East	Gregory Kirby	Prepschool
South Wales	<i>Vacant</i>	
Southern	Mike Field	Diesel
Stonecutters	Jamie Osborn	Ozzy
Surrey	Dean Johns	Blackbeard
Sussex	Karl Hopper-Young	Black Rat
West Kent	Stephen Mulvaney	Mulvers
West Midlands	Ian Cole	Coley/Pothole
Worcestershire	Andrew Philpott	Monte
Wyvern	Jim Hayward	Royal
VC	Harry Blinston	Riff
VC	Andy Hunn	Soul Man

BEDA Chapter Update

AGM

Beda held its' AGM in February and voted in Jay as Vice President along with other principal officers. Jay was invested with his VP patch by outgoing VP Luigi.



Patching

In February Beda held a patching ceremony for Northamptonshire Widows Sons at The Keep, the Bedfordshire Masonic Centre.



Crazy Legs has successfully passed his IAM assessment and training for Blood Bikes. Our President Snatch presented him with a Blood Bikes patch at our March social.

Branding

Spartan, Coach, Wildcat and Littlejohn crossed the border to attend the WS Branding.

London Half Marathon

Our Charity Steward Goulash ran the London



Landmarks Half Marathon raising over £800 for Guide Dogs including sponsorship from Beda.

Rolling Thunder Ride of Respect

Good Friday saw our President Snatch, Coach, Wiggi, and Baton attending the Ride of Respect for HM Queen Elizabeth II in Windsor and London.



Rutland Rideout

Following the AGM Gizmo was invested as Road Captain and on 14th April Beda held its' first long rideout of 2023 around the Rutland TT route led by Gizmo, Vice President Jay, and Wiggi. Beda will be holding rideouts throughout the year, including our Normandy trip in June. See our events page at <https://beda.wsmba.uk/eventsthisyear.html> for details.

Easter Egg delivery

Every year Beda delivers Easter Eggs to the hospital children's wards in Bedford and Luton. The reception we receive from staff and everyone's smiles make this a very enjoyable and rewarding event.

Socials

Beda continues to hold socials each month and has raised £580 so far from the Crazy Legs Draw to support our local charities.



Blood Bikes

Beda members Nunny Bear, Kipper, Wiggi and Crazy Legs are very active members of SERV Herts and Beds Blood Bike Group. They represented SERV and Beda at Woburn Triumph Classic Car and Bike Meet and the Spring Startup bike event at Luton Fire station.



SERV is our Beda Supported Charity for 2023. Beda have helped to sponsor the latest

Emergency Blood Car.

In the last 12 months BEDA members have carried out well over 300 lifesaving/moneysaving jobs for the NHS.

Lodge Meetings and Cuts

In February Beda attended an Initiation for Bro. Snowy Dyson at the Robert Bloomfield Lodge in Biggleswade. Snowy was introduced to Freemasonry by a Beda Past President Fugazi. With the Lodge and Province's approval, Cuts are now worn at many meetings in Bedfordshire.



Whilst attending a meeting at Freemasons Hall in April, our President Snatch and Kipper were pleased to meet other WS Chapters who were helping to host the "Meet the Freemasons" event.



West Mids Chapter Update

Light Blues and Widows Sons at the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge 9567

Meeting at Gaol House square Stafford on Monday 15th May, we were presented with two informative lectures:

Freemasonry in Italy, by W.Bro Nick Emerton-Court. Then, perambulating the pathway by W.Bro Ralph Richey.

With a fantastic catch up with V.W Bro Hec Emberga Centennial Deputy District Grand Master, Past Senior Grand Deacon, Past Junior Grand Lecturer, Most Worshipful Grand Lodge

of the Philippines. Who is also a Widows Son, and was presented with some patches from the West Midlands Widows Sons.

R.W.Bro John Lockley PGM, and W.Bro Mike Santopietro APGM were in attendance.

A great night was had by all Light Blues



“Masons unmasked”

A set of questions to get to know our members.

Name: W. Bro Tony Armstrong (Louie)

Which WS chapter are you in: West Midlands

When did you join Masonry: February 1999

Out of all of your bikes, which has been your favourite: My current Yamaha FJR1300

What has been your most memorable moment in Freemasonry: Seeing my Brother being initiated

What has been your most memorable moment in the Widows Sons: Too many!

How long have you been riding motorbikes: 45 years

What is your favourite route for a ride out: The route to Ma Bakers at Whitchurch

Pineapple on pizzas yes or no? No!

What is the best country you have visited and why: The USA - I love riding on their roads

What is your favourite degree in craft masonry and why: Mark - the friendly degree

What is your favourite type of music: Rock

Apart from masonry and the WS what other past time do you enjoy: Bloodbikes

Favourite sweets: Lemon Drizzle cake

Favourite drink: Beer!

What's the one thing you wish you could do: Sit down and speak to my Brother (Ian)

If you had one positive message, what would it be: Live life to the full, you're only here once



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



Pilgrims Chapter Update

First ride out of 2023. Our new Road Captain Stevie laid out a cracking route through north Devon, starting from Joneses' Cafe at Winkleigh, through Bideford and Barnstaple, stopping off for Coffee at Blackmoor Gate, then on through South Molton to Crediton for another break. The weather was mild, but we seemed to ride from one shower to the next. That, combined with muddy roads meant we all got home safely but covered in muck. Oh well, who doesn't enjoy cleaning their bikes!

The "Pilgrim's" Chapter Branding 2023 - Scotland, 23rd to 26th March 2023

So, we prepped for the journey up a few days before, our 2 Brandee's readying their bikes for the long 525 mile ride each way trip to Duncarron Medieval Village, in Scotland.



We set off on the Thursday morning when tragedy struck; Brother Kelvyn Bond was knocked off his motorcycle by a hit and run car driver only 5 miles from his home. He rang me as his first port of call and by God; I didn't spare the horses getting to him. As soon as I arrived at the scene I rang the Police, who were fantastic I must say. They tried to find the person driving the car but with no luck. To give Brother Alvin his due, he still got up, brushed himself down, got in my car and off to Scotland we went, with Alvin nursing bruises and several broken fingers.

After a few minutes of driving, we rang Brother Robbo up to say we would be a bit late at the original meeting point, only to find out he had

broken down, again only miles from home. He ended up waiting five and a half hours for the recovery to turn up!

Myself (Nails) and Alvin (Kelvyn Bond) arrived at our ¾ way (345 miles) motel about 5pm and then waited for Robbo to appear. He ended up having to drive as well due to his bike breakdown and arrived at about 10pm. Then it was off for some grub at Burger King (oh the high life we live lol), where we bumped into more Widows Son's also on their way up to Scotland.



By this time, CrabFat (Mark Hart) and Hobo (Chris Arden) were already in Scotland setting up their gear ready for the Branding on the Saturday and getting ready for us to arrive.

We set off Friday morning about 8am and headed to Scotland, the last 180 miles. The scenery was breathtaking, through the Yorkshire Dales, the Lake District and Scotland itself.

We arrived around midday and set up our tents and then it was party time, with a quick look around the medieval village.

Robbo, bless him was getting very nervous about the ceremony on the Saturday evening and no matter how we tried to calm him, nothing worked; he was flapping worse than a dying pigeon.

The Evening came and the Branding kicked off, live music, food and beer, a great combination for a great night.

Our 2 Brandee's went off and prepared themselves whilst I spoke to Andy Rankin about having the honour of leading the guys, which was agreed. I've seen Alvin go from a first, second and third patch Brother and now his final stage as a Branded Brother, so yes, a high honour for me as well.

After the ceremony and I hope he doesn't mind, Robbo was fairly emotional with what he had gone through. I then awarded them both with their Large "L"s as Branded Brothers.

It was then off to Crabfat's tent or should I say Marquee for some refreshments (nudge nudge wink wink) and party with The West Midlands Chapter. CrabFat then also honoured Alvin, Robbo, and myself with Branded Brothers Wings and Challenge Coins.

Sunday morning we woke with snow on the hills and found out it was had been about -7c overnight.

We packed up the tents (including the spare one I was given) and we then set off on the 525 miles back to Devon.

I would like to just add a massive Thanks to WSS for a great Branding, and also thank Andy Rankin and his full Team for all their efforts on our behalf.

Saturday 8/4/23

On Saturday several members of the Pilgrims made a surprise visit to our Secretary Alvin's mother and celebrated both her 80th birthday and her Cancer-free declaration by taking her for a ride out to Bude. It was the first time she'd been pillion on a bike and she absolutely loved it!



Sunday 9/4/23

Easter Sunday, and the Pilgrims made their annual visits to St Luke's Hospice and Cadogan Court, the Masonic Care Home in Exeter to deliver Easter Eggs to the residents, families and staff. We also presented St Luke's with a cheque for £500.00. The money was raised from Robs Run, held annually in memory of one of our founder members, Rob Walls. It was lovely to meet one of the nurses who cared for Rob in his final days at the Hospice. St Luke's presented the Pilgrims with medals commemorating 40 years of the Hospices' existence.



As usual Cadogan Court made the Pilgrims very welcome. After distributing the Easter eggs, the Pilgrims were treated to tea and coffee, plus bacon baps and burgers. We had two guest riders with us, and hopefully Jon and Darren will be with us for many more rides. All in all, a great weekend.



Saturday 15/4/23

Members of the Pilgrims and Wyvern Chapters of the WSMBA met at Mayflower Lodge No 7241, Uffculme for the Installation of W Bro Michael 'Gunny' O'Meara into the chair of King Solomon. Guests present included the Provincial team from Devon and a Widows Son brother from Southern Chapter. The installation ceremony, led by the outgoing Master Harry 'Riff' Blinston, together with his DC Brian Horn,



and the Mayflower Officers was accomplished with grace and decorum. Mayflower 7241 is a Widows Sons Lodge, and while most of the Brothers attended wearing their cuts/Widows Sons Regalia, one Brother was installed as Senior Deacon wearing his full bike gear,



including braces! The Provincial Team even removed their jackets so that their waistcoats would blend in better with the cuts. A good time appears to have been had by all.

Sunday 23/4/23

11 bikes including 4 guests - Darren, Jon, Colin and Gary, turned out for a ride through the South Hams of Devon. We met at Trago Mills early enough for several members to get 'caffeinated', and stands were up promptly at 11am. Half a mile later we had a short hiatus to allow someone (who will remain unnamed) to U turn and search for the glasses he'd left on his back seat! Glasses retrieved intact, we set off again and followed a lovely route through Newton Abbot, Paignton, and along the Torbay sea front, stopping for lunch at The Kent's pub.

The second leg of the route took us through Kingsteignton and Dawlish, then up through the Haldon Forest, an area of ancient Beech woodland, which would have been stunning with dry roads, but the weather let us down and we rode in drizzle all the way to our final stop at the Jolly Roger cafe at Bovey Tracey. The cafe is a well known bike stop, very quirky with a large collection of vintage and show winning bikes, intermingled with life size models of dinosaurs, gorillas, James Bond and of all people Barack Obama! Well worth a visit if you're in the area.

After a hot drink to warm us up the pack then split and headed home, with all of us arriving safely. Well done RC for sorting out a cracking route!

WSS Sweden

On a recent trip to the east coast of Sweden,

I had the opportunity to put a face to a name that I had come across on the Masonic Bikers European Group, Brother Gus MacDonald. The current President of Widows Sons Scotland Sweden. Currently around 50 members in the Chapter and growing. Spread over a massive country with more lakes and islands than anywhere else in Europe. Despite the distances they get together as frequently as possible. A very scenic road trip to his house and collection of motorbikes. I think I counted eight and a scooter somewhere. A blacksmith by trade, Gus creates interesting items displayed around the house from the practical to the awesome. Candle holders to axes, which is quite fitting if you know Sweden. He lives with Annika who also rides, and we are talking about a proper bike, so keep up Brethren. Our time together flew by and we parted company stressing the importance of keeping in touch and Gus is standing by to welcome any Widows Sons that are touring Sweden. Gus can be reached on +46705706195.



Widows Sons Scotland (WSS), were formed in March 2004 and is now comprised of three domestic chapters, North, East and West for Scotland and International Chapters in Norway and Sweden, with others in the pipeline. Always a warm welcome for the WSMBA north of the border as the support for the Branding testifies and long may that welcome continue

Leicestershire and Rutland Chapter Update

Although only formed at the AGM in February, we have been busy around the Province, descending on all you can eat breakfast buffets, Bike and trike meets, Easter egg runs and of course visiting Lodges whilst supporting brethren as they grow in their masonic careers. We are becoming a familiar sight in our cuts and "pork-pie" hats

We received a warm welcome from the brethren at Framlands 100 Lodge in Melton Mowbray on the 2nd of February to support Oli "Obi Wan" Jeffcote at his raising who was later patched up at our first official breakfast meet followed by a ride out to Foxton locks. We were pleased to be joined by a group from Northants Chapter. We have established regular Natter Night socials at The Gate Hangs Well pub in Syston on the 1st Monday each month which are well attended.

We were delighted to support Bro John "Muzz" Murray at his raising on the 28th of March at The Howe and Charnwood Lodge in Loughborough. The evening was more special because we not only patched Muzz but also Tom "Friar Tuck" Abbott and Ray "Shang-a-Lang" Macphee at the Festive Board. The happiest man in the room was Gary "Bear" Clark who won a large jar of American style hotdogs on the raffle. The Worshipful Master of Howe and Charnwood Rod "Durango" Harpham so enjoyed us being in his Lodge that he has since joined the Chapter riding his 1959 Matchless.

Easter Sunday saw a fantastic turnout which again included 7 members from Northants Chapter for breakfast in Syston followed by a ride out to the former Ordnance Depot at Weedon. We made quite the entrance as we rolled alongside the former barracks and military storage buildings where we found a custom car show and enjoyed a couple of hours there before bidding farewell to our Mick Vokes and the Northants crew and heading back home.

On the 15th of April we went to Devonshire Court RMBI care home in Leicester and delivered dozens of Easter Eggs. Our intention was to join them for their morning Cocktail party and quiz but unfortunately due to Covid restrictions still in place, we were unable to do so. We did manage to talk with some of the residents outside and after making some new friends and posing for lots of pictures with them we bade farewell before heading home.

We were invited back to Devonshire Court for their Coronation tea party on the 8th of May, and support RWBro Peter Kinder PGM in planting an apple tree in the garden to mark the coronation. The PGM made a point of talking to each of our party and thanking us for being there. The Staff and residents were even more welcoming than before and it is said that some of our members enjoyed their weight in cake and sandwiches. The rain held off for most of the day and we had a good turnout. A good day out, with staff and residents crowding the dance floor and everyone strutting their stuff including one or two in biking leathers.



We supported Mark "Victor-David" who was raised on the 17th April at Lodge of the Golden Fleece in Leicester. It is fair to say that he was quite overwhelmed with the evening, particularly when he was patched at the festive board. A fantastic evening and he left a very proud Master Mason and fully patched Widows Son. The Lodge were very supportive and welcoming and from this visit we have since picked up another new member Bro

the weekend on the 19th of May, as guests of Mark "Baldrick" Edmunds and his partner Sarah "Hamster" Hammond, more about that in the next thrilling instalment. In the meantime, we are very busy with various events, Lodges to visit, and new members to welcome.

We have gone from 12 original full members to 19 (plus 10 associates) in a short space of time. Currently we are nurturing two potential initiates to



John Kelly, by the time you read this we will have supported his raising on the 15th of May.

Our first AGM was on the 18th April and was attended by no less than 22 members which is an excellent show of support and shows a willingness to ensure the chapter prospers .

We had a visit to Granstone Lodge in April, where we met up with our very enthusiastic APGM Andy Green who, like the PGM, is very supportive of the Chapter. He has promised to join us for breakfast one Sunday soon and we are working on him to buy a bike.

Some of us braved the wet weather and attended the Loughborough Bike and Trike Fest on the 23rd of April and although the day got off to soggy start the sun did eventually shine through and this turned out to be a successful day all round.

A large group of us are heading over to meet up with some of the Suffolk Chapter in Lowestoft for

Freemasonry, we also have a father and son duo being initiated together in September and a host of rides and social events planned, which of course includes the National Rally in July and RTTW in October. As we get into the summer months we look forward to getting further afield and meeting with other Chapters.





Widows Sons MBA National Rally 2023

Thursday 28th - Sunday 30th July 2023

**Hull Ionians Rugby Ground
Brantingham Park
Brantingham Road
Brough
East Yorkshire
HU15 1HX**

Tickets £35 per person

**Book your tickets using below
QR Code or Website**



<https://rb.gy/3sxfo>

<u>Friday</u>		<u>Saturday</u>		<u>Sunday</u>	
10:00	Gates open	08:00	Gates open	07:00	Gates Open
All Day	Meet & Greet	10:00 – 13:00	Ride-out	07:00 – 12:00	Good-byes & Depart
18:00 – 00:00	Disco	14:00 – 15:00	Widows Sons Lodge	12:00	Gates close
00:00	Gates Close	15:00 – 15:45	Daggards Masonic Show		
		17:00 – 18:00	Presidents Presentation		
		18:00 – 19:00	Inter Chapter Games		
		19:00 – 20:30	Night Fever Band		
		21:00 – 23:00	Blues Brothers Act		
		00:00	Gates Close		

Hosted By



Technical corner – strong and secure passwords

How many online logins do you have? Five? Ten? Even a non-technical person can rack up twenty or more; the bank, the credit card and all the different utility companies, not to mention all the store cards, online motorcycle parts shops, online markets like eBay, social sites like Facebook and Twitter, they soon add up. And how many of them have very nearly the same password? Many, I suspect.

Now think about the password or passwords that you use:

Do you use a different password for every site?

Do these passwords differ from each other by more than three characters?

Does each password have more than sixteen characters?

Does it include numbers?

Upper and lower case as well?

Any special characters?

If you answered “no” to any of these then your logins are not as secure as they should be.

Having long passwords is a pain to type in and having different ones for every site is an almost impossible task for the average motorcycling freemason, but there is a solution!

There is a type of software called a password safe. These come in many different forms and are more or less secure depending on the technology used. I’m going to skip the least secure ones (written on post-it notes, stored in a spreadsheet or written text document) and focus on those that will actually make your lives easier.

The most-useful password safes are mobile phone-

based, since much of the time this is where you will be using them anyway. These work because you can copy from the password app and paste in to the password field of the website you want to login to.

Important things to look out for in any password safe software are:

- Ability to store more than just a login ID and password (think about your passport details for instance).
- Has a web browser plug-in (so when you open the safe to get a password it already knows which one you want)
- Has biometric access to the password safe.
- How trustworthy and well-known is the company that makes the software? (A quick internet search will answer this question).
- Can you export the stored information? There’s no guarantee that the software you choose will be the best five years from now.

The best ones cost money, though none of them are exorbitant, and if you are still working you could approach your company I.T. team or your manager and see if they will cover the cost.

At the end of the day, everyone should already know why having a different password for every website is a very good thing, and you all understand the difficulty of keeping to this. Password safes are one excellent way of ensuring that this security measure is maintained.

We have not recommended one as different people have different needs, and fees that might be reasonable for one person could be exorbitant for another. But if you have questions on this topic then contact technical@wsmba.uk



Bikesure insurance discount for WSMBA members

My name is WB George Young and I am a member of the Northumberland Chapter.

If you need anything more give either myself or Nick a shout.

I have managed to get a discount of upto 25% from Bikesure insurance for WSMBA members.

Please see the email below from Nick.

Good afternoon!

My names Nick and I am the Owners Club Representative for Bikesure Insurance. Bikesure are the UK's leading specialist motor intermediary and my role is to build relationships with owner's clubs regardless of size or machine and to promote the many benefits of becoming one of our acknowledged clubs.

As a specialist motorbike broker, we will compare motorcycle insurance from dozens of providers to find you the very best deal, whatever your individual needs. We treat all our customers as individuals and because we have access to more than 40 different motorbike and moped insurance schemes, you can be sure there will be one suited to you.

We have teamed up with "The WSMBA" to offer discounted Insurance Policies to its members. We can tailor our quotes to suit the individual providing benefits such as Agreed Valuation, Extended European cover, Free Legal Cover and Like for Like cover on your modifications!

All you need to do is call on 0800 089 0165 and mention "WSMBA".

If you already an existing customer and have any customer service queries or are due for a renewal then again don't hesitate to drop me a message and I will be happy to help.

Thanks

Nick Wilkinson

Owners Club Liaison

Adrian Flux Insurance Services

T. 01553 845 585 E. Nick.Wilkinson@adrianflux.co.uk

Adrian Flux Insurance Services, East Winch Hall, East Winch, King's Lynn,
Norfolk,

PE32 1HN



Son

Widows Sons Dedicated Marketplace



BroBay



'So Mote It Be'

Widows Sons, buy and sell pages. UK

WS "BroBay"

A marketplace for like minded bros to sell & buy bike related items @ honest prices

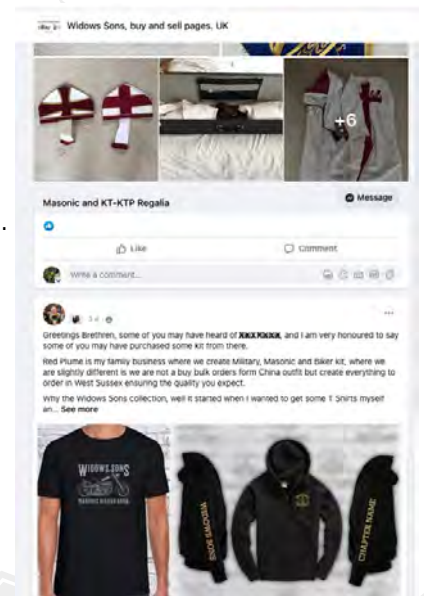
The only criteria to join is to be a Widows Son located in the UK & Ireland.

So please feel free to invite your fellow Widows Sons from the UK & Ireland to join us.

We'll take it that you can vouch for any bro you invite.

Please note we can not allow business posts, personal gain posts or 'service' posts.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/662943394115662>



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

West Kent Chapter Update

We donated 200 Easter Eggs to the Bromley Children and Families Forum (BCFF) this year. we also received a £50 donation towards this from a local company who had heard about the good work we do.

This is what the BCFF posted on their social media

A massive thank you to our incredible Friends of the Forum Widows of the Sons Masonic Bikers Association for delivering Easter Eggs at the weekend!

Their generosity continues to amaze us! They've kindly donated another 200 Easter eggs to our Easter Egg campaign. It was also very nice to meet Boaz Bear, WSMBA Mascot!

All of us BCFFForum feel incredibly privileged to have such strong and close relationships with The Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association

West Kent.

Our close ties with the Freemasons is very special, this strong partnership has grown and developed over many years and is really important to all of us at BCFFForum.

Did you know that some children might not get an Easter egg this year?

You'll be surprised to hear that many children and families live in poverty within the borough of Bromley.

1 donated Easter egg can bring a smile and some happiness to a child living in difficult circumstances within Bromley.

1 Egg = 1 Happy child

In March one of our members was installed into the Chair. Dave joined Widows Sons as a Cornerstone and was initiated into Freemasonry about six months later. So good to see a member progressing in his masonic career



We held our AGM in April which was well attended with sixteen Members, three Cornerstones and four guests in attendance. The following officers were elected:

President Stephen Mulvaney,

Vice President Meir Mizrahi,

Secretary Terry Nemeth,

Treasurer Clifford Cakebread

In May members of West Kent joined members of East Kent, South East and Surrey at the Installation of our National Secretary.

South East Chapter Update

Wednesday 10th May 2023 at Paddock Wood Masonic Centre, in Kent, saw the installation of WBro Gavin Crickett (PGB Secretary) into the chair of Paddock Wood Lodge 4291. He was supported with members from South East Chapter, West Kent, Surrey and a strong East Kent Contingent.

The evening went without too many incidents and I am unsure who won the sweepstake on when the Inner Guard would lose his apron but the members were on tenterhooks as to when it would fall around his ankles! Trousers were unaffected during the incident.

The festive board and alms collection raised over £300 and I am sure the Chapters in attendance will be in receipt of contributions to their respective Toy Run appeals.

What the evening demonstrated to the honoured Provincial guest was the support the WSMBA provides to its members at such events and is a valuable means of retention of members within Freemasonry.

Paddock Wood Centre and the Paddock Wood Lodge have been ardent supporters of the WSMBA for a few years and have invited them back in September 2023 as they will be hosting a "Masons and Motorbikes" event at the Centre to attract attention to the Centre and Freemasonry in East Kent. Plus highlight the beginning of the Christmas Toy run appeals for both East and West Kent.



South East Trip to France

May 13th/14th saw the annual trip to France by members of the SE Chapter along with East and West Kent and Surrey. 15 riders in total ventured over to meet up with WBro Alex Shoffren and his partner Francine at their home town in Northern France. Alex has been organising these trips for over 7 years and done so with the aim of raising funds for the Christmas Toy runs. The residents of his home town have got used to our regular trips and I think take a short holiday!! There are never many people around!



14 of the riders met up the Friday night before at the Travelodge in Ashford. An eclectic mix of masons and associate members on an assortment of vehicles and ages. John Guppy



and his wife Christine on a Spyder (3 wheels now his only means of staying upright) Steve Dixon and Mark McGhee on their Rocket 3's. The Rockets just about kept up with the Spyder!!!

Once in France we made our way to the RV some 20 minutes from Calais and were met by our hosts and members of a French riding Club and several boxes of freshly baked Croissants and juice. Our host having converted a 1500 Goldwing being assisted with stabilizers. Plus, we hadn't lost anyone yet!!

From the RVP we went to Boulogne and paid a visit to an exhibition in the crypt of the Cathedral. Nearly 50 years since I was last there and it had not changed much, just a bit cleaner but missing the "Pissoir" on the roundabout outside the main gate of the town. Long since gone and replaced with a large tree, so still the same function just eco-friendly! It was at this stage we realised we had a "Stowaway" with us and Steve Mulvaney handed him over to the local constabulary (See Pic). However, it was revealed he had a visa stamped at Folkestone, so he was released!

We were then taken along the coast to a café with an extensive menu and beer on draft! No interpretation was needed as the menu has English translations BUT it did not tell you that the chef had previously trained in Bedrock and good old Fred Flintstone would not have gone hungry! We then set off about 80km to a Brewery.

A breakdown in communication saw us leave a couple behind as an American Made motorcycle NOT a Harley Davison broke down and would not start. They got left behind and after some extensive riding by Steve Dixon and Mark McGhee, the stragglers were rounded and taken to Alex's home. The bike was fixed with the aid of a 12mm spanner and some cursing and swearing!!

The brewery visit was very interesting and the beer went down well, especially the French riders. Some of the beers were 12% proof, not really my tippie but were apparently popular in the region. Plus, they had won several awards in France and the UK.



From the Brewery we made our way to Alex's house to settle down for the evening, beer, wine, and food flowed. Some settled for a nice night's sleep and some listened to the chorus of deep snoring!!

On Sunday morning after a full English Breakfast, we went to visit a local museum of a coal miners house and then on to a British WWII soldier's grave in a French cemetery to lay flowers and listen to a strange history of this grave, one of our members recited a "Eulogy to the Fallen" at the graveside. What was first



thought as a death by misadventure transpired to be the heroism of Private Robert Key Royal Artillery, after the testimony of a witness some 50 years later!

Some of the boys with the fast Toys (Steve Dixon, Mark McGhee, Scot Gibson, Dave Cantlon and Felipe Brandao) went to explore the coastal roads and head off towards the Tunnel. The rest of us (Steve Mulvers, Dai and Rosebud Edwards, John & Christine Guppy, Mike & Molly Freeman, Rob Daniels, and myself) had a leisurely lunch and a scenic ride through the countryside to the Tunnel.



Our thanks to Alex and Francine for their hard work and organising this every year and raising over £600 for the Toy Appeal from this event alone. Plus to the French riders who kept us all together on the rides. I know several have booked next years event in the diary!

Gavin Crickett

Sussex Chapter Update

Whilst we haven't been so busy hitting the roads and burning rubber during the long cold winter nights, we have been hard at it planning our adventures for the warmer weather.

Membership

We now have 31 members split between Widows Sons (15) and Cornerstones (16), with another 5 waiting in the wings, including one who hails all the way from India!

Our officers currently consist of Karl Hopper-Young (President), Dan McLusky (Vice President), Allon Gilbert (Secretary), Andy Dalziel (Almoner), John Button (Chaplain), Mark Thomas (Treasurer). Until very recently our Charity Steward was Charles Napper, who has stood down due to work commitments.

Christmas Toy Appeal and Run 2022

On a bitterly cold and frosty Saturday morning in December, over 12 members turned up in Hailsham to load up their bikes and cars with donations of toys which were admirably wrapped by Andy Brown, and Amazon gift vouchers. Suitably refreshed by bacon butties and tea, and having donned Santa suits and hats which took a little improvisation to make them fit, we set off carefully on the slippery roads. The first stop was to Dan McLusky, our VP's house where he had made sausage rolls to keep us going. Dan is also a professional chef amongst his other attributes! We then rode to the Conquest Hospital in Hastings where we were warmly welcomed by staff on the Kipling Ward who made time for a

quick photo shoot. The sun finally came out and started to warm us up which was much appreciated. We then rode to Brighton and to The Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital to deliver more gifts and Amazon gift vouchers.

In previous years we have also ridden to our four chosen charities to donate toys and gift vouchers, but due to us (including our bikes) getting a bit older, we decided to send Amazon vouchers to Demelza in St Leonards on Sea, Chailey Heritage Foundation in North Chailey near Lewes, Children's Respite Trust in Uckfield and to the Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead. We also offered to all charities and to the hospitals a free day's professional services from the wide range of occupations which we hold, whether it be putting some furniture together or painting a room etc. We received many wonderful letters of thanks from each organisation, some will be purchasing laser tag sets to enable wheelchair bound children to participate in games, some are fitting out a new sensory room, and another will be purchasing items for their garden for when the weather turns a little warmer.

WSS Branding

In March I rode with Dan McLusky and fellow Sussex Chapter member Adam Ketley to the



Branding Ceremony held by WSS at Duncarron Medieval Village in Scotland. This was an incredible experience never to be forgotten and we made some great friends as well as catching up with old ones.

Easter Egg Run 2023



We made our annual Easter Egg Run on Sunday 9th April, travelling to the Conquest Hospital, Hastings, and to the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital, Brighton. As before, we sent Amazon gift vouchers to Demelza, Children's Respite Trust, Queen Victoria Hospital and to Chailey Heritage Foundation. Our hopes for warm, dry weather were partially met which made the ride more enjoyable, we were also relieved that it was not too hot and started to melt the chocolate eggs!

May Day, Hastings

The Sussex Chapter had a wonderful time in Hastings, East Sussex on Bank Holiday Monday May 1st where several thousand bikers from Lone Wolves to MC's from all over the county turned up to ride along the seafront. A small party from the Surrey Chapter and the Southeast Chapter were present and in their ranks our National President, Greg Kirby.



Biker Down

Karl (Black Rat), Dan Benstead, Liam Currie, our Charity Steward Josh Crutchfield and Andy Dalziel (Diesel) took part in the Biker Down event run by Doc Bike East Sussex and Kent Fire Service professionals at Tenterden Fire Station in Kent. The CP trainer who is ex Army should be on Britain's Got Talent, he was so funny. This course provided us with vital information on what to do if you come across a motorcycle accident and also how to keep ourselves and others safe when out riding either alone or with friends.



Lee Rigby Ride of Respect

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the death of Lee Rigby, the drummer from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Karl was delighted to receive an invitation to join the admin committee who arrange the ride and considers it a great honour. We will be leaving home around 6.30 am then joining the other bikers at Nell's Café for some well earned breakfast before departing at 9 am to reach and ride in convoy past the memorial to Lee in the garrison chapel at Woolwich Barracks before heading back to Flamingo Park where a service is being held.

Widows Sons Northumberland “Rock n Sausage Roll”

Widows Sons Northumberland chapter for many years has supported the Greggs Children’s cancer run, this event celebrated its 40th year with a glorious sunny day, and thousands of children in attendance to complete the sponsored run raising over 8 million pounds for cancer research since the run started.

Members of the Widows Sons form the official start line for the first race with motorbikes lined up, with the eager young runners behind, once the starting pistol is fired the bikes roar off, with the children in hot pursuit.

The rest of the day is spent with the motorbikes on display, for the children (and eager Dads) to sit on and get photos taken. Another great example of Freemasonry in our community.



W. Bro Brian 'Busby' Tritton PAGDC PAGSoj

I was asked by the chairman, Gregory, Kirby, to write a short article for the Son identifying, why I joined the Widows Sons and how I started riding? So here goes.

I became a member of The Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association, Quarrymen Chapter of Dorset in July 2022. My interest was first aroused from discussions with Graham Taylor, the then President of the Quarrymen, when we were both active Provincial Grand Mark Officers. He invited me to attend the next Quarrymen Natter Night to find out more about them, which I did, but unfortunately Graham had died the previous day. Fortunately, I knew many of the members and I was made extremely welcome by all. The Widows Sons has provided me with an extended opportunity to meet with others of the same masonic and biker interest.

Having thoroughly enjoyed my short time with the Quarrymen I wanted to promote the WSMBA as much as possible to obtain more widespread recognition in Dorset. Therefore, as I am to be installed as Worshipful Master of Dorset Masters Lodge, No. 3366, on 1st June 2023, and expected to give a short talk, I seized at the opportunity to actively promote the WSMBA in general and the Dorset Quarrymen in particular. At the meeting, I will be 'Calling the Lodge Off' to give the talk, prior to which the WS members will remove their masonic regalia and put on their cuts. When the talk is finished the WS members will resume wearing the masonic regalia and the Lodge will be 'Called On' to finish the agenda items.

My interest in motorbikes started at in 1960, when I was 16. Having just started my apprenticeship as a motor mechanic, was interested in anything with an engine and made a noise. I bought my first bike, which was a BSA Bantam 150cc which cost £69.10s through hirer purchase as I was only paid £3.1/6d per week. (those old enough will know what that is in current money).

I enjoyed this so much and soon progressed, if that is the right phrase, to an Aerial Leader 250cc two-stroke. As a 19-year-old and wanted

to venture further and faster, I got a BSA Gold Flash, 650cc, a bike which I cherished and covered many miles, with my brother, who had a BSA Gold Star 550cc, following Speedway around the country. Unfortunately, sometime later, I was involved in fatal road accident, following which, when my bike had been repaired and returned to me, I had lost confidence in riding and gave up bikes and bought my first car, a Ford Anglia 1952.

It was some 50 years later, that I felt the passion, to return to biking, so purchased a



Honda CBF 1000cc, of course it was much faster than I had remembered from my BSA days, and the gear lever and foot brake had changed positions. I didn't really get on very well with this, as subconsciously, I was still battling with my confidence. Not wanting to give up riding I road tested, a Pan European 1300cc, for a 70-mile road test, which I thoroughly enjoyed every moment, consequently on my return I immediately purchased the Pan and still have it now after four years. To improve my riding skills, I decided to take a 'Bike Safe' course which I found extremely beneficial and would recommend to others returning to biking after long periods of absence. Being a member of the Quarrymen has enabled me to continue my enjoyment of bikes by riding with like-minded people.

appointed to Active Provincial ADC in 2006, Active Provincial JW in 2013, Past Provincial SW in 2014. In 2019 I was promoted by Grand Lodge to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

I was exalted into Portland Chapter, No. 1037 in 1992, First Principal in 2005, Director of Ceremonies from 2011 to 2013. Appointed Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2008, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2010-2015. Provincial Second Grand Principal 2015-2018. I received Supreme Grand Chapter promotion to Past Grand Standard Bearer in 2012 and promoted to Past Assistant Grand Sojourner in 2022.

Having completed my apprenticeship in 1961, I worked at the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at Bovington Camp Dorset and

later becoming workshop manager. Transferring In 1975 to the Home Office Prison Department as an Instructional Officer teaching engineering. After 18 years I was promoted to Centre Co-ordinator for Prison Education and Vocational Training at The Verne Prison Portland.

I took early retirement in 1996 to become a self-employed UK and

International Education and Training Consultant until 2019 having gained experience of working in Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. Other professional experiences include, working for City and Guilds, UK and Germany, as an External Verifier Brian became an Inspector for the Training Standards Council, Adult Learning Inspectorate and Ofsted, a position which he held until 2016.

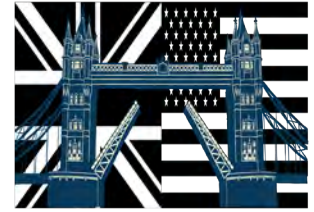


My masonic journey started in 1989 when I was initiated into Vindelis Lodge, No. 7873. Installed as Worshipful Master in 1999 and eight years as Director of Ceremonies. I joined Dorset Masters Lodge in 2015, served three years as Director of Ceremonies and to be installed as Worshipful Master in June 2023. I am a member of Portland Lodge, No. 1037 and currently their Director of Ceremonies. I was

Walk the Bridge Mental Health Initiative

WALKTHEBRIDGE.ORG

At a recent meeting at the Ace Café members of the WSMBA present were introduced to another Mental Health Initiative. "Walk The Bridge".



Let's Smash the Stigma of Mental Health

Background: WalkTheBridge is a grassroots effort, begun in August of 2018 in Rowlett, Texas, with the stated objectives of raising awareness about the Mental Health Wellness of our Veterans & First Responders, provide Peer Support, Training and/or Counselling opportunities as alternatives to Suicide, and create a respectful atmosphere to where the Family Members & Friends affected by the completed suicide of their loved one can come to reflect and remember a life lived in Service and Sacrifice to one's community of country. In the U.S, upwards of 40-45 Veterans take their own life every day and in 2022 196 First Responders did as well. Clearly, we believe this is an epidemic worth addressing.



In 2021 we began the process of reaching out to Law Abiding MC's around the US and in the UK, sharing the Mission with them and enlisting their support. Since then, #WalkTheBridge Movements have started up as an on-going monthly event in Fort Worth and Waco, Texas, Billings, Montana, Chicago, Illinois, Owensboro, Kentucky and Springfield, Missouri.

Overseas in the UK Stevenage and Manchester came on board while solo WalkTheBridge Events have been held in Dothan, Alabama, London, UK, Venice, Italy, Budapest, Hungary, and Poland.

The effect of this Mission is best said like this.... 9 LivesSaved. What's been accomplished so far and it's been well worth it. We can definitely say that we've saved and/or changed the lives of 9 Veterans or First Responders. Our intent is to

create the Monument and continuing advocating for the Mental Health Wellness of all Veterans and First Responders.

The numbers in the UK, that we have been able to get from the Government is that they have recorded 350 veteran suicides since 2017 these are as a direct result of PTSD that these people have suffered.

We are starting a new location in London on 18th June 2023 at 1100. We will be walking a bridge across the A406 from The Ace café. Please join us there, we need as many as possible to attend this. It is a non-club event and is open to all not just Masons. This event will happen on the 3rd Sunday of every month at this location. We would love for more locations to be started. If you wish to do this, please contact us on #walkthe bridge or on Facebook Walk The Bridge. We would also love for more publicity for this event so if you know any media that may be interested, please invite them as well.

Peter Colley (Ex Serviceman, Freemason & Biker)



Cheshire Chapter Roundup

Cheshire Chapter keeps on growing, at the time of writing we now have 49 patched members and 31 bad pennies.

Our President and Vice President both attended the AGM in Derby back in February, giving them chance to rub shoulders with other members in attendance. There were representatives from all over England and Wales plus Gibraltar and the Netherlands! It was interesting listening to what was working in other chapters and some of the shared problems that most of the chapters face. All in all, it sounds like all the chapters are on the up which is great to hear.



Back in March we had four very excited brethren lined up for the branding ceremony held in Scotland. We sent up Chip our VP, Grumpy (I think every chapter has a Grumpy!), Sat Nav, Geest and two helpers Fireman Sam and Cactus Jack. The venue and hospitality all arranged by WS Scotland was second to none and something we will all remember for a very



long time. It was amazing to see brethren from overseas also attending the ceremony and many new friendships were made over the weekend and in true Scottish style the weather didn't disappoint.....boy was it wet. A full weekend of brotherhood, food, music and camping, what's not to like!

Back in April CWSMBA proudly presented a cheque for £1000 to our nominated charity for 2021/22 which was Cheshire Young Carers. Cheshire Young Carers offers some fantastic and very heart felt services in and around Cheshire, supporting young carers with the likes of after school facilities and even a recent holiday to Disney Paris. It was very touching listening to some of the stories that the staff told and some of the plans they have for the summer which CWSMBA are duly invited to. The cheque was greatly received, and we look forward to supporting Cheshire Young Carers in the future.



More recently CWSMBA also proudly presented another cheque for £1000 to another local charity The Joshua Tree (our charity for 2022/23). The Joshua Tree supports families which are experiencing a child with childhood cancer through services like counselling, sibling support and educational support just to name a few. We would like to give a special mention to two of our younger bad pennies Alex (Shadow) and Sophia (Cub) who helped raise £350 towards our yearly target by shaking buckets at many of our events. We think this is an amazing achievement!

Our monthly breakfasts are still very well attended, as we endeavour to hold breakfasts across the whole of the province. Our



great company and an excellent raffle! The return journey via Llanberis pass, Capel Curig, Betws-y-Coed and the beautiful Denbigh Moors. The travelling brethren were caught in the edge of the storm from hell at Mold, which just as quickly cleared, and the sun returned just in time to dry the very soggy brethren out.

As we look forward to the rest of the year, we hope to keep increasing our numbers, promote/

breakfasts are a family affair and are enjoyed by all including all the children. We also hold monthly ride outs which are marshalled and often



arranged by our fantastic road captains and any other members wishing to get involved. Some of our ride outs have taken us south to the Triumph Visitor Centre in Hinckley, west to Bangor in North Wales and generally all over the province.

CWSMBA have several founding members of the North Wales Motorcycle Lodge 10026 and so far, the meetings have been well attended by our brethren. The most recent visit took our brethren to Bangor Masonic Hall which included

support more cross chapter events, introducing brethren to motorcycling and introducing the motorcycling community in Cheshire to freemasonry.

Dave (Chip) Lee
VP Cheshire



Widows Sons Lodge 10011

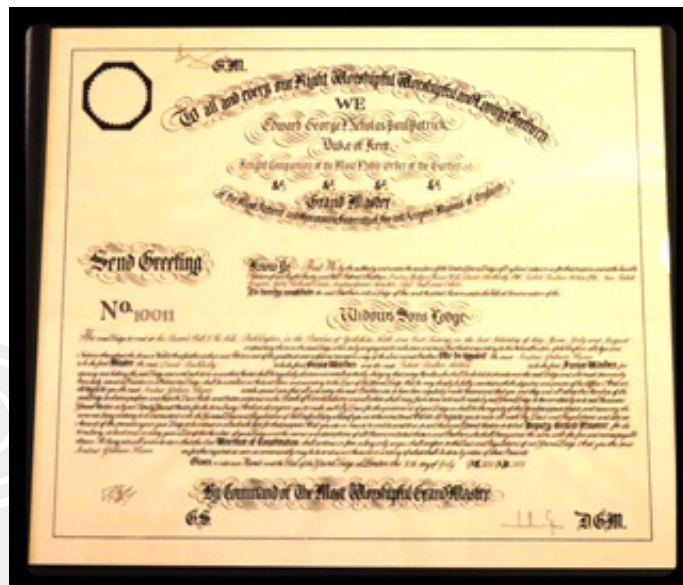
The Widows Sons Lodge 10011 had its first ever installation last weekend and WBro Dave Brocklesby was installed as the second Master of the Lodge.



The weekend was all set, the weather was going to be in full summer mode and brethren started to arrive at the camp site from Friday lunchtime. By the early evening about 60 people were enjoying getting together again after the winter break and a few drinks were being 'tested' to ensure that they were up to standard for Saturday night.

Saturday arrived and we headed down to the Pocklington Masonic Lodge for the meeting, more bikes were waiting there and continued to arrive as we basked in the glorious sunshine.

2pm arrived and the meeting started, naturally we had a visit from province with a representative of the Provincial Grand Master in attendance to watch over proceedings. The lodge room was full and we had to bring in more seating for all those that wanted to be in the room, such is the popularity of this new and exciting lodge, it's not often that we see lodges overflowing these days but we continue to grow, and brethren are keen



to see just what we are all about.

We do things a little differently in our lodge, with fun being at the forefront but obviously we still take ceremonies very seriously and in time honoured fashion Dave was installed into the chair of King Solomon, Widows Sons Lodge 10011 had its second master, congratulations Dave and we know that you will be a brilliant Master of this Lodge.



During the meeting we had another 4 propositions for new members and 1 joining member was balloted for and approved.

people with common interests. Our members come from all over the UK, we are a travelling lodge and so move from county to county to accommodate as many people as we can, and our next meeting will be the last Saturday in June at Louth in Lincolnshire. Interested in joining? If you're a Widows Son MBA member then send us a message or come along and enjoy a weekend with us.

Andy aka Soul Man



Meeting over and we had for the first time, since the consecration, a festive board, fantastic steak pie, chips and peas, followed with profiteroles, very nice indeed.

Back to the camp site at Garton on the Wolds and about 80 people enjoyed a hog roast in the beautiful Yorkshire countryside, again we drank, talked, laughed and listened to music. What a wonderful way to enjoy Freemasonry, like minded



Worcestershire Chapter Update

The Worcestershire Chapter, now celebrating its third year held its AGM recently – all officers were re-elected to serve under the presidency of Andy “Monte” Philpott. Over 20 bikes joined in a rideout in sweltering heat to a local car and Bike festival in Binton (where one of our members won the “best Cruiser” award!), followed by the well supported AGM and dining.

We continue to enjoy our formal monthly rideouts around the Province, along with regular Wednesday evening informal rides to local events – and have recently been further afield, such as



the supporting the Pilgrims bash in Exter, and joining Worcestershire’s bikers lodge (lodge of Progress) with a weekend away in Scotland, going from coast to coast visiting Rosslyn chapel and also a tour around Lodge Zero – The mother lodge of Kilwinning.

Our charity activities continue to support several local charities – including the Worcester dementia

Café with a cheque presentation, and also a presentation of a handmade “rocking motorbike” to our local Acorns Children’s hospice.

The Chapter continue to grow in numbers to over 30 plus – with the patching in of two new joining members, and several joiners to our Pear Drops association.



Cumbria Easter Egg Run

Cumbria WSMBA Easter egg run started on Monday 27th March with a run out to the James Rennie school where nearly 200 eggs and a cheque was donated to their inclusive playground fund, the chapter treasurer Denis Noble accompanied by his lovely wife Sylvia, the VP Eric Baty and myself Mike Turner (President).

13 WS, 1 brother from a local lodge, Provincial support from our APGM Ian St.John Darcy & PCO Neil Dixon, wives and partners all gathered in Dalston for the big ride.

Our first stop was Cumberland Infirmary where we donated 3 huge boxes of more eggs, toys, Easter bunnies and a cheque for £425 to help



support the children's ward to buy toys and equipment that the children need when they are being looked after. There was also a box of soft Easter toys donated to the maternity ward, for babies born during Easter week, that the parents could take home as a special momento.

The ward staff brought the parents and children down to meet us all, some sitting on the bikes, enjoying the

A stunning day out to support an amazing school who do so much for the exceptional children that can't attend a more standard school.

But Sunday was the big run, starting at 9am in Cockermouth, before heading over to the Carlisle area to pick up the eggs and remaining WS members.

sunshine and the laughter.

The next stop was the Jigsaw Hospice, where the children came out in their wheelchairs along with the staff to view the bikes.

Things really got going here when one of our WS took one of the nurses for a little tour around the site and car park on his bike, the smiles and

laughter was infectious, a smaller donation of eggs was given, but the largest donation was for thermal fleece blankets which all the children will get; to keep them warm and cosy as they sit in the gardens and play areas.

The staff were overjoyed with the gifts and were overwhelmed when another cheque was presented, allowing them to buy sensory toys and equipment to help those incredibly special children have an amazing time whilst they were there.

The last and longest leg of the day





was then started, riding across Cumbria to the West Cumbria Infirmary in Whitehaven, where yet another 3 large boxes of eggs were presented to the Children's ward along with another cheque. Again, a box of Easter soft toys was given to the maternity ward for babies that would be born during Easter week to be given to their families as a memento of their birth. We wanted to include all children, and that included babies as well.

The staff and families again came down to view the bikes and meet everyone, and once again, it was a pleasure to see the joy on the children's faces.

I suspect for all that took part in the ride today, the memories created by just giving our time to help others, the smiles and laughter, the fun that was had and the brotherly companionship that the WS engenders.

As a chapter we cannot thank enough the whole province of Cumbria, the lodges, chapters and side orders for their amazing donations, for helping us raise the monies, the eggs and the gifts that have helped so many young children and put a smile on many an old man's face and heart.

To all the brethren in the WS who attended today, I thank you, to all the support from within the province, we thank you, to all the wives and partners for being there with us, we thank you.



I have been humbled throughout all of this, and I could not have done any of this without the support of my wife Helen, my VP Eric Baty and the PCO Neil Dixon and everyone of the chapters members and all the brethren in the province of Cumbria.

Regards

Mike Turner
Cumbria President

Next issue

The Spring issue of **THE Son** will be published on 1st September 2023

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

Please send your submissions, articles, stories, images, events and Chapter News (plain text with separate images preferred - not embedded in documents) for the next issue to the Editor by email to: news@wsmba.uk no later than **Friday 18th August**.

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>



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