

THE Son



Issue 11
Summer2024

Brethren all, I trust you have had a good summer and the favourable weather giving opportunity to get out and about on the bikes.

First of all, our thanks to Parisi, Ridings and Lincs Imps Chapters for hosting an excellent National Rally. Good attendance from the Chapters, excellent facilities, and a great venue set in amazing scenery. Each year the bar is raised, and the South West Chapters in Region 7 are organised and already selling tickets. The dates are 19-24th July 2024. This rally is also marking our 20th Anniversary. Newton Abbot Rugby Club, Devon, TQ12 3SJ. Book your tickets ASAP and help make this the best ever. In TWENTY years we have come a long way so there is certainly a lot to celebrate and be proud of.

Talking of Anniversaries, The Widows Sons Constitutional Chapter No. 55 celebrated 150 years on Friday 21st June 2024 at Freemasons Hall.

You may recall the Comet appeal put out by Jamie Osborne. A member of his Three Peaks volunteer support team returned home to a house fire in which the family lost everything, including their pet dog Comet. Although the volunteer was not a Freemason that proved no barrier to the charity that we all practice. The donations came in and £2075 raised to help the family. Jamie is making sure it got to where it can help and has expressed his personal gratitude for the generosity of the WSMBA.

As a growing Association we are always having to keep an eye on best practice and keeping order in our processes and procedures. A recent issue has brought to light that we should be registered with the ICO, (Information Commissioner's Office). In plain English be careful how you treat members information and personal data. Having spoken to the ICO prior to registering the WSMBA, all we need to do is keep our communications within the Association. As in no emails or contact details should be shared or distributed outside of the Association. And should a member leave to destroy their membership form and any other data held. This is also an opportunity to check your Chapter's Application forms and ensure there is a data protection clause along the lines of what is

produced either on the Craft Registration Form M as follows:

DATA PROTECTION CONSENT:

I, the undersigned, hereby consent to the processing of personal data and information supplied in relation to Question 5 above, by the Lodge, the Metropolitan Grand Lodge, and the United Grand Lodge of England. Note: Any such data and information supplied will not be divulged to any other organisation, Masonic or non-Masonic.

Or a lodge summons:

DATA PROTECTION ACT: To comply with the above Act, your permission is required to hold personal details such as your name, address, date of birth, telephone number etc. on an electronic database. This gives formal notice of that requirement; to avoid unnecessary correspondence your permission will be assumed unless you give written notice to the contrary.

Can all the secretaries review their Chapter Application forms to close this loophole, or seek guidance from the back office. Many of you are already following good practice and using our generic @wsmba.uk will help to standardise our comms. The complainant even went as far as to request Freedom of Information. No one has a right to be a Widows Son; it has to be earned by adhering to our Masonic principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. So please keep it tight Brethren as we all know how to keep a secret . My personal thanks to Richard Pinner for his assistance in negotiating the maze of due diligence.

Another area of concern flagged up from time to time is our riding. Ride outs are structured for a reason and the Road Captain has spent a lot of time and energy putting it together. His ride, his rules, (and you did vote him in, or appointed by the President). So please bear that in mind and remember to safely maintain your place and no overtaking or showing off. What you do on your own is your affair but if you are riding with your "cut" you represent the WSMBA in particular and Freemasonry in general and we have pledged never to bring Freemasonry into disrepute. We

have some awesome riders in our midst and many are Institute of Advanced Motorists members or equivalent and am sure those qualified would offer tips and advice as you can never stop learning. Plus it gets harder to heal as you age. We want everyone to get home safely.

The Lifelites donations are still coming in. SE Chapter has added another £1700 recently, and if the other pledges come in we will have hit the £20k target. We can then consider the next Lifelites Challenge so please help get the first one over the line. Donations can be made to the dedicated Relief Chest No. E1072.

Finally, and on a positive note, we are still growing. In the pipeline are the following Chapters in alphabetical order: Buckinghamshire, Isle Of Man, Oxfordshire and Shropshire. Some are in a more advanced state than others. Peter has started the process and Harry "Riff" Blinston will be brought in to help with Bucks and Oxfordshire and Andy Hunn with Isle of Man and Shropshire. If all goes well we will be nudging 40 Chapters and well over 1000 Widows Sons through England and Wales and District Overseas.

We are continuing to be recognised as a positive

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.

element within Freemasonry and that is down to the way all of you raise funds for good causes and keep your Provincial Officers in the loop. Keep up the good work!

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

Sincerely & Fraternaly Yours

W. Bro. Gregory Kirby SLGR.



The Suffolk Chapter roars again

After months of attending ride outs and forging new friendships with the officers and brethren of the Suffolk Chapter a group of seven new members were readied for their patching ceremony.

In the early morning of the 16th of June, the brothers began their journey from their homes across East Anglia to rendezvous at Ashlar House in Bury St Edmunds all prepared with their black leather cut ready to join the ranks of the rebranded Suffolk Chapter of WSMBA.



As the steady flow of riders began to arrive smiles were lighting up the faces of brethren already gathered as they listened out the sound of burbling v-twins and four-pots reverberating through the empty Sunday morning streets those with the keenest hearing could, with remarkable accuracy, predict who was about to make the final turn unseen

into the temple car park so well they knew their fellow bikers - of course nobody even those blessed with the severest of motorcycling induced deafness could mistake the arrival of the President himself as the thunderous roar of his 6-cylinder behemoth made its presence known to all in the province, and beyond!

Following warm fraternal greetings the brethren enjoyed a hearty English breakfast and engaged in much light-hearted and refreshingly cruel banter over the merits and otherwise of Harley Fergusons and then followed the main event - the gathering of the founding members and distinguished brethren including; W. Bro 'TT Man', W. Bro 'Olly', W. Bro 'Kevlar', W. Bro Ogriii, W. Bro 'Beard', W. Bro Skipper, W. Bro 'Tomo', Bro 'Sarge', witnessed the reading of the charge and the handing of the cuts to the new members; Bro 'Sheks', Bro 'Not Tony, but Pricey', Bro 'Cruncher', W. Bro 'Soapy', Bro 'Colonel', Bro 'Curious, and Bro 'Monkey'.

The post ceremony ride out was to the superb Suffolk National Chopper Club event in the beautiful village of Rattlesden, whilst many thought it in penance for the earlier HD bashing, we soon discovered 99% of them are not half bad after all!

If you would like to discover more about the Suffolk Chapter of the Widows Sons and join us on our regular ride outs, please contact our membership secretary or visit our Facebook page Widows Sons MBA Suffolk Chapter



Stonecutters Update

To support Wiltshire Provincial Grand Lodge and Wiltshire 2028 Festival, the Stonecutters produced a limited edition and serial numbered Challenge Coin. The coins sold rapidly across the Chapter and to non-biker brethren alike. We are pleased to know that the Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire is a very proud owner of one of our coins and he regularly challenges members of the Stonecutters!

In March, we visited Stonehenge Lodge No. 6114 to watch the Ceremony of Raising for Bro Robin Taylor who was our first non-Masonic Cornerstone to be initiated into Freemasonry and was our Assistant Secretary when the Stonecutters first formed. Time was of the essence because Robin was due to move from Wiltshire within the week. He was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, became a Widows Son and was presented his Founder Member's patch all on the same night!



At Easter we visited Spurgeons Children's Charity and Julia's House Children's Hospice during our Easter Egg Run. Both of these charities are based in Devizes but support families from across Wiltshire. Our partners from Juno Company, Wiltshire Army Cadet Force helped us to deliver the eggs before we rode around Salisbury Plain and then found a suitable venue for a meal. A good day was had by all with the day contributing to the cadets earning their Cadets in the Community Syllabus.

About twenty bikers including members from visiting Chapters including Southern, The Quarrymen, Wyvern and Brycgstow Chapters attended our Annual Cider Rally at Bredy Farm near Bridport. The ride, food, company and entertainment were excellent. Our visitors really contributed to the success of the weekend and we are as ever, really grateful that they took the time to visit and support our Chapter. Likewise, some of our available

members visited the Pilgrims WSMBA for their Annual Bash.

June passed by very quickly. Our members supported our neighbouring Chapters meeting up with them for a ride to Sammy Millers. The Stonecutters also provided eight motorcycle outriders to escort a young lady to her Prom. Her arrival was certainly loud and discussed by all who were present!

To welcome the arrival of July, the Chapter assembled in Salisbury and rode to Corfe Castle, then on to The Square and Compass at Worth Matravers for lunch. We also donated £1000 to the Wiltshire 2028 Festival Appeal at the Installation Night of the Wiltshire Summer Lodge No. 9548 and are also really pleased to announce that several of our members have qualified as Mental Health First Aiders with Mental Health First Aid England through the excellent training delivered by Mental Health Motorbike. We held our Annual General Meeting on 8 July at Trowbridge Masonic Hall where we elected our new President "Robster", Vice President "Radar", Asst Secretary "Kneivel" and two additional Wardens, Ian Lever and Vince Wheeler. Plans for the Chapter over the next 12 months were discussed in outline.



On 28th July, the Stonecutters met at Amesbury, Chieveley and Peartree Services, slowly increasing the size of our convoy of bikes as we rode North to Hull Ionians Rugby Club, for the 2023 National Rally. Despite the forecast inclement weather and the anticipated heavy holiday traffic, the Stonecutters made good progress catching up with several other Chapters enroute. After pitching our tents and a quick meal, we had a good catch up with friends from over a beer or two. Some of our members were up early enough to enjoy the group ride, and we all

had the privilege of visiting the Widows Sons Lodge No. 10011.

Sunday started with one bike which, for reasons best known to itself, decided not to start. A bump showed it who was boss! A careful ride back to Wiltshire due to the poor weather conditions and slippery road surface took the best part of the day, but everybody arrived home safe, sound but damp! We also held a large and successful ride on 6 Aug around the North of Wiltshire where we were extremely happy to patch a new Cornerstone into the Chapter.

Our collective minds are now focussing towards the future. The finishing touches are being made to our annual toy run, building on our partnership with Wiltshire Army Cadet Force and Julia's House Children's Hospice in Devizes; as well as our Christmas Dinner at Trowbridge Masonic Hall. Longer term, we are already planning our Easter Egg Run, the Ye Olde Annual Cider Rally and of course assisting our neighbouring chapters in the South West to organise and host the 2024 WSMBA National Rally. We also have plans for a project across Wiltshire as the 80th Commemorations of



D-Day approach. The Stonecutters Chapter Officers have never been so busy planning ahead, which will involve all our members and possibly brethren from across the Craft to assist us.



Quarrymen Roundup

The Things We Do In Summer by Phil

This Summer sees quite a few trips planned for members of the Quarrymen. This one is from Phil, the comms officer.



Having not camped for over 25 years and never toured on a motorcycle, I decided to make my version of the Snowdonia 360 and NC 500 – The South West 550. Touring the entire north and south coastline of the South West Peninsula of England. All on my Triumph Bonneville 865. Kit arranged and bike loaded I set upon my way. (bringing a mate along for the fun)

The first leg was to ride from Dorset to Minehead. A trip of about 1 hour and 50 minutes. Sadly a motorcycle and a BMW had collided, at 10:30 that morning, closing the M5. The result of this was massive tailbacks everywhere and a vary hard trip, navigated single lane roads full of parked cars. The trip ended up taking close to 4 and a half hours.

Thankfully we arrived at the campsite in daylight and managed to start setting up the tents. Distance travelled so far 95 miles.

Having not camped for over 3 decades, the wealth of lightweight (ish) kit surprised me. I managed to arrange all the gear from friends to include a tent, ground sheet, tent carpet, table, chair, sleeping bag,

air mattress, camping cot, table and cooking items. As this felt more like glamping than the camps I used to do I went all out and stuck some fairy lights up on the front of the tent. There was logic here though as it was a dark sky site, with no lighting at all, and I wanted to be able to find the tent after the likely early hours wee break most men of a certain age are used to.

Camp all set up it was time to address fuel, both so the bike could start day 2 full and so we could go to bed with a full stomach. We had decided to only cook on the camping gear for breakfast, so trip into Minehead was in order.

Just 4 miles away and a great little place to visit (my first time) we noticed lots of little features around the town, like the image on the left in the towns local YMCA.

This was a trip planned with short notice, after I realised I would not be able to make the French trip some brothers were undertaking. The two main goals for day 2 were to visit St Nectans Glen and Lands End. All following the coastal roads.

Needless to say this would have made a boring day of just riding so we elected to stop off at Ilfracombe – another first time visit for me. It has this rather strange statue in the harbour.

After a couple of other minor stops we reached St Nectans Glen. This was not what we expected! An hours hike through a hand made path in full motorcycle gear to see a waterfall.



It is a very impressive spot but one for car tours. The hike there and back was hard and there was actually a lot to see and the venue deserved a whole day visit, which our schedule did not allow. Very tired we headed to the next part of the route.

We did get to see the waterfall though.



More minor stops for leg stretching took place, mainly due to hitting the A30 during a major rebuild and traffic you would not want to see. Eventually we reached lands end about 6pm after perfecting our filtering skills on fully loaded bikes.

Yet another first for me but, doing the route on a budget meant we waited for the official

photographer to leave (who takes the other sign home at night!!!!) and took the photo we both wanted. Distance so far – 329 miles.

The camp for night 2 was just 5 miles from The Lizard so, after an evening curry (do not eat curry when touring!!!!) we decided to start the run home with a quick visit and photo at England's most southerly point.

This is a National Trust spot and is a lot less theme park like than lands end. It is also some really nice roads to ride down to get there.

parking is tight and very limited at the end though so we were glad we had set off very early.

The main plan for the ride home was to ride through the centre of Dartmoor, rather than round the edges like most routes normally take you. headed inland a bit we succeeded but had skipped breakfast.

I had heard of a motorcycle themed roadside café on the Cornwall side of Dartmoor so we decided to head there to have breakfast. A great meal (themed on bikes) with a little motorcycle garage filled with used vintage gear too. Very cool and worth finding for yourselves.

By this point we had realised that this trip needed a couple of extra days. We were both in pain after about an hour in the saddle to limped out way home, vowing to do it right next time.

We made our way to Lyme Regis and covered

our favourite coastal route, all the way back to Swanage. Once again meeting traffic like you have never seen. By now our filtering skills are so honed we tore through the traffic and made it home with final distance of 575.5 miles covered, with no motorway or dual carriageway used.

I learned a lot from the trip overall. Mainly not to try and cram too much in and that this run needed at least one extra night for two riders and two extra nights if there are more. Otherwise you are just riding instead of enjoying the benefits of motorcycle touring – seeing the country we live in. The trip was awesome though and I think I am hooked on exploring. I am writing this, totally shattered, and just a couple of hours after getting home. I am already planning the next trip, with less gear and also an overnight alone, to see if this is something I can do on a whim, when I have a night free or the wanderlust kicks in.

I highly recommend having a go if you have not tried it before.

Notes / Lessons learned

1. an air mattress on the floor is as comfortable as with a cot – ditch the cot.
2. Sleep with the natural day. Go to bed when dark comes and get up at dawn. Campsites are noisy if you want to lie in.
3. Backpacking tents will be easier to carry.
4. Buy a down sleeping bag. Synthetic is Summer only.
5. Take your time. The riding is only half the adventure.
6. Do it as often as you can – even done badly – it is fun.





We realise there has been a long time since the last issues was published, this has been due to pressures of work, and the sheer time it takes to produce (in between life and work) - this copy alone has taken over 20 hours.

Please find attached a set of guidelines for submission of articles to **"The SON"**. These guidelines will ensure that your submissions are not rejected, that your images look their best and that there is no chance of them being omitted due to missing deadlines or workload issues.

When supplying articles please:

- Send them in Word Format or Plain Text as attachments only, these are the only acceptable formats.
- Please do not send articles as PDF's, in email bodies, PowerPoint or other non-text apps, **this will result in your article being rejected**, and/or missing its inclusion in the Magazine.
- Please title your article and the submission email with your Chapter name, subject of the email and that it is a submission for **"The SON"** Magazine - i.e. "West Midlands Chapter, Son Submission, Autumn 2024"
- Please spell and Grammar check your articles before sending (Word has Spell and Grammar Check tools - see <https://bit.ly/3QJ10XX>)
- Send images separately - please use **descriptive image names** that reference the chapter name, article and approximate place they should be in your article. Do not put any text in "pic goes here" - as this has to be manually edited out
- Please send original images only - do not edit them down, crop, change resolution or process in any manner that may result in loss of image quality. We have sufficient server size to receive hi res images.
- Please do not send articles or attachments via time limited File transfer applications like WeTransfer
- Please limit the size of your submissions to an absolute maximum of 1,000 words minus images (using the Word count tool) This will make 2 pages in the magazine. The Editorial team may, upon consultation, take additional or larger articles if of special interest or importance.
Important note: if you add images, you will need to subtract about **50 words per single column width image** from your maximum. (so a 2 page doc with 4 pictures will only have room for 800 words)
- Publication is on the 1st of March, June, September and December. With a cut off two weeks before each issue. Cut off is **not** a target date! Please submit your article as soon as possible before the deadline - if Chapters consistently send on deadline day, the result is a delayed edition - the average time taken to assemble is 20-25 hours before editing process. We may have to bring the deadline forward, meaning it may become difficult to keep articles current.
- Please send your submissions, articles, stories, images, events and Chapter News for each next issue to the Editor by email to: news@wsmba.uk no later than two weeks before as this impacts publication dates!
- Please send your article just once, you will receive an auto response from the Mailbox confirming receipt. Sending again duplicates the work for the editorial team, and will have a knock-on affect on other articles.

Quarrymen Roundup

Fish & Chip Run



Our August natter night was designated for a group ride out for fish and chips in Swanage this month. Starting in two locations on each side of the county, members met, rode and ultimately converged together at Wareham, ready for the ride into Swanage on a lovely late Summer evening



A good few members are still ill or on their travels but we got a decent showing with 4 non members along for the ride, to find out more about what we do and how we do it.

Graham also got voted in as a full member and will be receiving his patches at an upcoming event.

The conversation flowed as it always does and new friends were made with the chaps coming along for the ride. 3 non masons and an unattached mason all enjoying in what the Quarrymen have to offer.



After we had finished stuffing our faces we had a quick catch up on what was going on and collected another 110 pounds towards our charity ride in 10 short days time. Greatly appreciated and a big step towards us making our target for Lifelites.org. Also making sure that everybody is aware of the bike safe course being run at the end of September. The officers roles were explained to the non members along with an explanation of the Almoners role being given.



With the darker nights drawing in we split into smaller groups and headed home. With 4 of us stopping by the chain ferry for a crossing into Poole, before each heading home in turn.

This was a great evening and is sure to be repeated more frequently over the coming year. Keep an eye on our events section on the Facebook page to see if there is a ride out you can join in on and find out more about biker friends and even masonry in general.



Quarrymen Roundup

Porcaro 2023

August the 14th and 15th each year sees the Le Madone des Motards a Porcaro Rally (The Madonna of the Bikers in Porcaro) Brittany, France.

This year, 5 members and two cornerstones attended and they were not disappointed. Staying at the Presidents holiday home situated nearby, the weather remained kind and the opportunity to do a little sight seeing and sampling the local restaurants was also seized.

The second day which is always a national religious holiday, saw the blessing and ride-out.

Being a predominantly catholic country, at the very beginning of the ride-out, bikers line up in their thousands for the 'Blessing' where the local Priests are engaged blessing each rider as they pass. Then follows a 62km route travelling through the countryside where again thousands of well wishers many bringing their entire families with chairs and picnics, line the streets and gather at junctions to 'high five' the passing motorcyclists and cheer them on

It's a massive family event and many pillions in the procession throw sweets to the waiting children lining the route. Two hours later and upon arrival at the finishing village where another festival site was waiting for us, we were informed that riders were still lined up waiting to start the ride out, with a solid procession of riders in between.

25,000 official wristbands for the ride had been sold with almost an equal number of unofficial attendees lined up along the route to 'merge in' and enjoy the experience.

The Paris Olympics next year has cast a bit of a shadow over next years rally as to whether the necessary Police attendance can be allocated. Nevertheless the French are never put off and even when officially cancelled in the past 10,000



plus riders still attended to maintain the traditions. Whatever happens I will look forward to welcoming members back next year.

On Thursday 24th August I rode to the picturesque village of Trehorenteuc where I met 4 representatives of the Cornerstone Chapter of the French Widows Sons who had traveled up to 120km to attend.

With limited English on their part and limited French on mine and with a friendly translator as well we chatted over lunch for over 2 hrs.

I was very unexpectedly presented with, (might I add) a Calvados filled ,engraved WS hip flask and a French WS Challenge Coin. In return I provided them all with Quarrymen Stickers, Badges and key-rings

It was agreed that this would be the first of a yearly meet with the Madone des Motards Porcaro Rally dates being the focus of attendance.

It was a pleasure meeting these Brothers and an enjoyable time was had by all.



Widows Sons Shires Chapter Charity BBQ

Following the success of the May BBQ on Coronation Day, the chapter re-convened to host another event at the Barleycorn Pub. The event was the first for the new president, Dave "Steadfast" Shorten with VPs Giorgio 'Der Sipper' Guarino and Mick 'Running Bare' Shoard in attendance.

This time, despite it being the August Bank Holiday, the weather was little better than in May and customers had to duck in and out of the pub to avoid the wayward showers.



Making its debut on the menu was the humongous 'Fat Boy' - A club sandwich with two burgers, 3 cheese slices, special sauce and lettuce, that went down well - with various approaches to actually eating it on display (see photos!!) In fact all the burgers were popular and we had to send out an emergency sourcing party to get to the supplier for more before they closed for the day.

As usual, proceeds from the event were shared between the Shires' charity, Blood Bikes (£500) and the Air Ambulance (£72), nominated by the Barleycorn. Our own blood biker Paul 'Monty' Lear brought a Blood Bike to the event to show everyone what their money goes to support up close.

Cops and Robbers rally

The first weekend in September saw two members of Shires and one from Surrey heading off to the last Cops and Robbers rally, the Blue Knights LEMC having previously said that this would be the last time they run this rally.

The rally was held at an army base near the coastal



town of Folkestone and this location provided us the option to not camp and instead use one of the rooms in the bunkhouse.

Friday evening was spent meeting new friends and old, and drinking the beer, wine and soft drinks that were included in the price.

On Saturday we decided not to go on the arranged ride-out and instead opted to go in to Folkestone for lunch in a local establishment, a visit to the beach afterwards seemed de rigueur.

After we got back to site, and the ride-out had also returned, presentations were made and the Blue Knights rally virgins and probationers were made to do things that, for the sake of the squeamish, will not be written about.

Afterwards the evening continued its cowboy theme with both types of music, Country and Western!

Sunday appeared bright and sunny, we said our goodbyes and went to meet up with some other Widows Sons from Surrey at the Motolegends near Guildford, followed by a gentle bumble home in the glorious summer sunshine.



Cheshire Chapter Roundup

Cheshire continues to grow with 49 patched members and 28 bad pennies.

CWSMBA @ The Rally 2023

Back in July several Cheshire attended the national rally held at Hull, we had a good mixture of bikes, tents, campervans and even truck. The rally as always was an event to remember, a weekend of catching up with brothers from near and far, beers and music. Even the weather held out most of time.



CWSMBA @ Hartford's Picnic in The Park

Also, back in July and in some super-hot temperatures I must admit, some of the Cheshire Chapter attended a local event in Hartford, Cheshire. With the aim of promoting freemasonry, promoting the Widows Sons and of course to raise some money for charity, the day was a success indeed.



Our brethren manned a stall selling cakes (thanks Sue), sweets and giving out balloons to the local children (and maybe some adults as well!). It gave us the opportunity to show off our bikes and a different side to freemasonry which was well received. Our very own VP's wife Steph was the only one brave enough to adorn the TLC teddy bear suite in that heat, much to the joy of the kids.

ICWSMBA @ The Nantwich Show

Finally, into August and our VP attended the Nantwich show on request of the province to help man the provincial stand along with the Blood Bikes. We were lucky with the weather once again and with a good amount of footfall at the show, members of the public were keen to learn more about how the Widows Sons, Blood Bikers and freemasonry were all linked with a common interest of charity.



CWSMBA In Cumbria

Back in September Cheshire rode up to Cumbria for the weekend, the trip included a visit to the Lakeland Museum lunch the PGM of Cumbria and a guided tour of the province. During the Cumbria ride and on behalf of the Cheshire Chapter our Pas President Big H presented a Widows Sons Coin to Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro Bill Bewley & The Assistant Provincial Grand Mastee W.Bro Ian



D'arcy of the Masonic Province of Cumberland and Westmorland. For the very kind hospitality, they showed to us all.

underprivileged kids to attend the much-loved PGL adventure holiday and a donation to 472 Air Cadets Squadron just to name a few. Well done brethren!



Remembrance Sunday

As always, we showed our respects across the province for our fallen heroes. We partook in processions, wreath laying and bowing our heads in remembrance in various locations. As well as laying crosses on the Victoria Cross recipients across Cheshire.

RTTW

Several members from Cheshire attended this year's RTTW, some eager photographers managed to grab a few photos as they arrived at the Arboretum. As per previous years the mood was reflection and remembrance as our brethren stood shoulder to shoulder with thousands of other bikers from all over the UK.



CWSMBA & The Charities

Cheshire continues to support local charities in and around Cheshire. Some of our recent donations since our last article include more food to Mid-Cheshire Food Bank, a donation to Pontville Specialist Day and Residential School to allow for

Our breakfasts are still very well supported, as well as the support for many of our members progressing through their ceremonies, joining RA, Mark and many more.



Dorset Masters Lodge

On Thursday the 7th of November I attended Dorset Masters Lodge. My year in the chair of my own lodge is coming to a close and, as is customary, I had received an invitation and attend and join Dorset Masters.

was so warm. (I don't need much excuse to squeeze a ride in).

The highlight of the event was learning that the raffle draw for the day was to be in support of the Quarrymen's own Memorial Ride, this year

raising funds for LifeLites.org. This was also very apt as there was another grand officer present that happened to be Tony Harvey, the interim Chair of Trustees for LifeLites as a whole.

Needless to say, he was happy to pose for a photo and see what we are doing to help raise money for this worthwhile charity. You can find out more about it here: lifelites.org



The current WM is our very own Grand Officer, Brian Tritton. As such I felt I just had to go and support him as he was also my proposer.

It was a typical masonic meeting with lots of faces there that I have met during my travels as master. I had turned up on my trusty Bonnie as the weather



Constitution of the Lisbon chapter

In 2021, the inaugural WSMBA Chapter took root in Portugal, laying the groundwork for its flourishing expansion over the subsequent two years. On a day steeped in national significance, December 1, 2023, Portugal's National Independence Day, the Lisbon Chapter emerged, committed to community engagement and charitable endeavours.

On this day, in a display of solidarity and compassion, our inaugural charity event unfolded, a testament to our unwavering commitment to uplift the most vulnerable among us. We rallied together, donating clothing and toys to the youth nestled within the heart of Portugal's most underserved communities, we sought to brighten the lives of those in need and foster a spirit of compassion and solidarity within our community.



Though our journey spans a mere three months, the Lisbon Chapter stands strong, forged by the hands of 21 Widows Sons and 21 Cornerstones, each a pillar of our shared vision, united in our commitment to honour the timeless principles the principles of Freemasonry and the advancement of WSMBA community in Portugal.

Our mission is clear: to not only nurture the growth of WSMBA within our nation but also to uphold the noble ideals of Freemasonry wherever our journey takes us. In pursuit of this vision, we have forged alliances with esteemed organizations such as Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) Portugal and the Portuguese Association

to Support Victims of Motorbike Accidents (APAVAM), recognizing the interconnectedness of our objectives in supporting those in need.

One of our primary aims is to establish connections with Portuguese Freemason motorcyclists who have yet to join the Widows Sons community.

Exciting times lie ahead as we prepare to host the inaugural Widows Sons National Camp (29-30 June). Set amidst the breathtaking landscapes of Markádia, within the tranquil embrace of the Odivelas Dam in Alentejo, this gathering promises two days of camaraderie, relaxation, and communal harmony. With ample opportunities for fellowship and shared experiences, we eagerly anticipate welcoming brethren from near and far to join us in this celebration. In the tranquil embrace of nature, let us forge bonds that transcend borders and unite us in a shared purpose.

When your travels lead you to the vibrant streets of Lisbon, know that it is our greatest honour, and privilege to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to you, brethren. Together, let us continue to illuminate the path forward, guided by the beacon of brotherhood and the enduring spirit of service that defines us as Widows Sons.

So mote it be

José Carlos Coelho



East Kent Chapter roundup

What a busy time it has been for East Kent

in the last couple of months, some in the Lodge and being summer and perfect riding time plenty out on bikes as well!



Since the last time we wrote a piece for The Son many miles have been racked up by those in East Kent! We ended May with 11 of East Kent making a trip over to Devon and attended The Pilgrims Rally – we had a cracking time down there, the hosts were superb and we were well looked after. The weekend included a cracking ride out across Devon and Cornwall, plenty of beers, good banter and new friendships made! The weekend finished with a couple of East Kent swearing they will never camp again (President included – it is surely a basic human right to be able to stand up to get dressed!!) and one of them waiting for the AA for a lift home all the way



back to Kent.....

We then had a couple of Lodge meetings, one

a talk on 'The Widows Sons' ably presented by 'Bluebell' with the usual Rent-a-mob guests in tow, followed a couple of days later by our Widows Sons Mark Lodge Summer Breakfast meeting. We met at 9am conducted a double advancement – welcome to the Mark Degree 'Lama' and 'T-Bag' – had a lovely breakfast festive board and headed out on a ride afterwards, not a bad way to finish a lodge meeting!

Into July and we had our AGM where all officers and President agreed and were voted in to continue for another year, the Chapter has grown, developed and is building a good relationship in the Province of East Kent. We participated in an annual treasure hunt, attended a 'mini' festival put on by our Secretary '14' which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. We attended a 'Bat & Trap'



competition (look it up – a Kentish pub game) put on by a number of local lodges – we didn't win... actually we were definitely making up the numbers... But we had fun doing it!

We then had over 20 of us head of and attend the National Rally – which I am sure will covered by many Chapters so I won't go into great detail – but we went a slightly different route from Kent to Stoke on Trent for the first leg. An overnight stay with a few drinks and our guest from another chapter earning a new roadname – thank you 'Barbie' for your company, then over the Pennines for an awesome ride to Bakewell and on to meet The Pilgrims to finish the ride to Hull. The whole of those from East Kent had a



Iceni. We attended an open day at a local lodge where East & West Kent joined forces to put a number of bikes on display to try to get the general public in through the lodge doors. While there we conducted a public friendly patching ceremony with 20 – 30 people watching, welcome to the Widows Sons 'Lucky' and it's worked that well we've been asked to do another 2 Open days across the Province, one of which was 2 weeks later at the Canterbury Centre where the Freemasonry Museum is based – well worth a visit!! We have been out in lodge to see our Treasurer 'Preacher' initiate his son, an awesome ceremony and a great occasion all round!

great time at the Rally, meeting friends again, great ride put on by Bully and the team and lodge meeting like no other! Thank you to all involved!

Into August and September and we are back at lodges out visiting and already have one more talk on the Widows Sons planned. We went and 'met the neighbours' over in Essex and had a great meet up with Banger and

Into the coming months we have more 'Widows Sons' talks planned, the first of the Widows Sons going into the Chair at the Hundred of Hoo Mark Lodge, more visits and the annual Toy Run all planned!

Andy '3rd Gear' Pilbeam – President



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.*



Son

Who and where

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

Please do not worry if you are not mentioned, we are aware this is due an update and this will be addressed in the next issue, once new Chapters have been chartered at the National Rally.



Chapter	Provinces covered	Website/email (clickable)
Anglia	Anglia, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk	
Beda	Bedfordshire	https://bedachapterwsmba.co.uk
Brycgstow	Bristol, Gloucestershire	
Cheshire	Cheshire	http://www.cwsmba.org.uk/
Cobble Stones	Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire	https://cobblestones.wsmba.uk/
Cornwall (St Piran)	Cornwall	https://cornwall.wsmba.uk/
Cumbria	Cumberland & Westmorland	
Durham	Durham	https://www.dmmwidowssons.org/
East Kent	East Kent	http://eastkent.wsmba.uk
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	secretary@landr.wsmba.uk
Lincs Imps	Lincolnshire	Find us on Facebook (click here)
Merlin	Derbyshire	president@merlin.wsmba.uk
Norfolk	Norfolk	http://www.widowssons-norfolk.co.uk/
North Wales	North Wales	https://widowssons.wales/
North West	East Lancashire, West Lancashire	http://northwestchapter.com/
Northumbria	Northumberland	WS-Northumbria@outlook.com
Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire	
Parisi	Yorkshire, North & East Ridings	http://www.parisichapter.co.uk/
Pilgrims	Devon	secretary@pilgrims-wsmba.co.uk
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	https://www.southern.wsmba.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://westkent.wsmba.uk
West Midlands	Staffordshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire & Herefordshire	http://westmids.wsmba.uk
Worcestershire	Worcestershire	http://worcs.wsmba.uk/
Wyvern	Somerset	https://wyvern.wsmba.uk/

VC South vcsouth@wsmba.uk

VC North vcnorth@wsmba.uk

National Website

<https://widowssons.org.uk/>

Chapter	President	Roadname
Development Officer	Peter Younger	not small far far away
Algarve		
Anglia	Glen Oliver	Olly
Beda	Jeff Boote	Snatch
Brycgstow	Antony Brookes	Spook
Cheshire	Peter Wright	
Cobblestones	Mick Vokes	Elmer
Cumbria	Michael Turner	
Dorset/Quarrymen	Paul Bishop	Reaper
Durham	Andy Reed	
East Kent	Andy Pilbeam	3rd Gear
Ellan Vannin		
Gibraltar	Tony Morillo	TBA
Guernsey and Alderney	Nemer Kharroubi	
Hallstone		
Iceni	Martin Cargill	Banger
Ireland	Richard Webber	
Leicestershire & Rutland	John Torley	Habibi
Lincs Imps	Ian Wilson	Tug
Lisbon		
Merlin Derbyshire	John Perridge	Grumpy
Nederland	Jan Engbersen	
Norfolk	Martin Culverhouse	Silver Fox
North Wales	Alan Doyle	
North West	Andy Baxendale	Baxi
Northumbria	Michael Ewart	The Governor
Nottinghamshire	Richard Wheelhouse	Tricky
Oxonian		
Parisi	Dave Brocklesby	Dave Dave
Pilgrims	<i>Phil Jones</i>	Nails
Portugal	Jose Santos	
Ridings	Andrew Simister	Gremlin
Shires	Peter Parsons	39 Steps
Shropshire	Julian Lowe	Jules
South East	Gregory Kirby	Prepschool
Southern	Paul Kneller	PK
Staffordshire	Anthony Armstrong	Louie
Stonecutters	Jamie Osborn	Ozzy
Surrey	Dean Johns	Blackbeard
Sussex	Karl Hopper-Young	Black Rat
Templar		
Warwickshire	Rich Pin	Pinn/Flipper
West Kent	Stephen Mulvaney	Mulvers
Worcestershire	Andrew Philpott	Monte
Wyvern	Jim Hayward	Royal
VC	Harry Blinston	Riff
VC	Andy Hunn	Soul Man

Gibraltar Chapter Update

April saw a change in President, and officers where Darren Laguea stepped down and Tony Morillo took over on our 3rd anniversary on 23rd April.



An “easter egg run” saw us deliver easter eggs to the local Rainbow (Childrens) Ward, St Bernadettes Therapy Centre and St Martins special needs school. May also saw us support a local charity bicycle ride in support of Pancreatic Cancer support Group

Monthly ride outs, and fundraising continued and June saw the visit to Gibraltar of Dennis Schultz a brother from WS Germany. This resulted in an invitation to the Consecration of a



WS Lodge in Herford, Germany, in July, which was attended by members from England, Rumania, Italy Gibraltar and Holland amongst





others. July also saw our annual visit to the Faro Bike Rally where we met up with the President of Portugal WS. Travelling back to Gibraltar in Temperatures of 38 degrees C was challenging, to say the least. Continued high temperatures meant that this was our “winter” and ride outs were temporarily suspended.

A BBQ was held in September to raise funds for the Moroccan Earthquake appeal which had been started by the Gibraltar District Grand Lodge. As a result WS Gibraltar was able to donate £1,000 towards the grand total of £6,630 raised for this worthy cause. At the BBQ were Lee Copeland, a WS from Durham now living on the Isle of Man, and his partner who were visiting Gibraltar.

This has been a busy six months in which this small Chapter have collected and donated £2,000 to worthy causes.





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Widows Sons Leicestershire and Rutland Chapter's Summer Adventures

Buckle up because it's been one heck of a ride this Summer. The Leicestershire and Rutland Chapter of the Widows Sons are a tight-knit group of Masonic motorcycle enthusiasts who are all about three things: having a blast on our bikes, making a positive impact in our community and of course enjoying freemasonry.

As we waited for the sun to grace our region, we hit the roads on a mission to spread serious brotherly love and lend a helping hand wherever we could. From our organized rides that filled the streets with roaring engines to catching up with brethren at the annual Widow Sons rally, despite the rain, we've been on a mission to make this summer unforgettable for all the right reasons.

It's Official

Without a doubt, the highlight of the Summer was attending the National Rally of the WSMBA in Hull from the 26th-28th of July where we were formally presented with our Charter recognising us as an official Chapter of the Widows Sons. A great weekend with over 600 bikers attending, along with families and friends. We were also privileged to attend a meeting of the Widows Sons Lodge 10011, something quite spectacular with the three principle officers astride their motorcycles.

A Ride to Remember: Iron Horse Ranch House

Adventure

After our regular breakfast on the 14th May, with the sun shining we rode off to the iconic Iron Horse Ranch house in Market Deeping. The warm sunny weather and the anticipation of a fantastic day ahead drew a remarkable turnout. We weaved through picturesque landscapes of Leicestershire and Rutland, each twist and turn bringing us closer to the promise of cake and coffee.

Supporting Brother John's Masonic Journey

The next day, we visited the Lodge of the Golden Fleece, where we were able to extend our unwavering support to Bro John Kelly (Doc) on his raising. Brimming with enthusiasm we joined the brethren of the lodge in witnessing this significant milestone in Bro John's Masonic journey in a double celebration as Bro John was not only raised within the lodge but also proudly patched in as a member of the Widows Sons.

Lowestoft Adventure

In May a large group, along with their wives, partners, and even two furry companions, embarked on an adventure to Lowestoft where Bro Mark Edmunds (Baldrick) and Sarah Hammond (Hamster) graciously hosted a memorable escapade. Battling the elements on Friday, four intrepid souls braved the relentless



rain to journey down - a feat even Howard (Bod) undertook. As day turned to night, and in the comfort of warm and dry clothes, the group united for a hearty meal and a few drinks. The next day, under sunny skies, Gunnie and Muzz joined us, enjoying blissful sunshine as we strolled along the seafront, indulging in ice creams. The day reached its crescendo with a lively BBQ at Mark's pub, The Trowel and Hammer, attended by locals, fellow bikers, and brethren alike. The air hummed with the joy of live music, forging connections that lingered long into the night. As Sunday's sun dawned, the return journey was bathed in sunshine once more, perfectly encapsulating a weekend of shared rides, laughter, and precious memories.

Biker Down Course

On the evening of the 23rd May, the chapter embarked on a journey of learning and safety when we attended a "Biker Down" course at Birstall Fire Station, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to being responsible road users. An invaluable evening with the training led by seasoned firefighters and experienced bikers, covering crucial aspects of road safety, first aid, and accident response to understanding the dynamics of a motorcycle crash scene, equipping us with life-saving skills, vital insights that could make all the difference in an emergency. Throughout the evening we exchanged experiences and tips, fostering a supportive environment for the entire group, demonstrating our dedication to safe riding practices and our unwavering commitment to being responsible road users.

Pork Pie Pursuit with Cobble Stones

In June, we went to Northampton and had a great breakfast with the "Northamptonshire Cobble Stones" followed by an unforgettable ride to Melton Mowbray in pursuit of a savoury delight, the iconic Pork Pie. With engines roaring in harmony, the journey was not just about the destination, but supporting each other. Arriving in Melton we were joined by the "Lincolnshire Imps" where we enjoyed welcome refreshments at the "All Things Nice" cafe, and much Brotherly love

Northampton's PGM Patched In as a Widows Son

On the 6th of August, we travelled South to support our Northamptonshire colleagues as they celebrated the patching-in ceremony of Northampton's PGM who was made an "Honorary Widows Son". Though he doesn't ride a

motorcycle, his passion for luxury and speed is evident through his impressive collection of Aston Martins, earning him the affectionate road name "007."

Scenic Ride to The Greyhound Inn:

On the 10th a few of the Brethren, enjoyed a very scenic ride with fantastic views through Derbyshire to The Greyhound Inn a charming pub nestled in the village of Warslow in Derbyshire which is owned by Bro Lee Wilson-Hart, a member of Merlin (Derbyshire) Chapter.

Southern Chapter's "Big Ride"

For the second year in a row Southern Chapter took part in an 1800 mile ride around the UK over four days to raise funds for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Having enjoyed a great breakfast that morning at The Hobby Horse in Syston, we met with the Southern Chapter for lunch at Muston. WBro John Sanderson "Meatloaf" who had been patched in that morning, presented them with a cheque towards their fundraising. We then took the opportunity to ride down the A1 with them to Peterborough where we broke off and visited the "Graffiti Tunnel" in Peterborough before heading home via the Two Flags Cafe on the A47. A super day out.

Ride out to the Triumph Factory

On the 3rd September, despite the warm and humid air and the looming threat of thunderstorms hanging over us we embarked on an exciting ride to the Triumph factory. Remarkably, we successfully navigated our journey, defying the threatening skies, and managed to return unscathed, keeping dry throughout the morning and enjoyed a fascinating visit.

Upcoming Toy Collection for Botsford Toy Run:

Looking ahead, we are starting to organize a toy collection, aiming to assist families in distress as Christmas approaches, ensuring that their children have something to open on Christmas day. More details on this will follow in the next article.

We meet for a social evening on the 1st Monday each month at The Gate Hangs Well and for Breakfast the 2nd Sunday at The Hobby Horse both in Syston. If you are interested just pop along for a chat or contact us at secretary@landr.wsemba.uk

Nottinghamshire Chapter Update

We are now official as we received our Charter at the National Rally in July and the Chapter is going from strength to strength.



Since the rally we have had several well attended natter nights that have become very popular.

PGL Website

I have been in communication with the webmaster at PGL for some time and this relationship is starting to pay off. He has provided a Widows Sons page on the website in the Speciality Groups section. He is also the Provincial Photographer and is invited to our events. He takes the photos, I write up a bit of text and he drops it on the PGL website. Hopefully this gets us noticed and reinforces the presence of the Widows Sons in Nottinghamshire. I am really grateful for the work he is putting in.

Mental Health Motorbike



At our August natter night we invited Paul Oxborough from Mental Health Motorbike to come along to receive a cheque for £200. Paul

then gave us an interesting insight into the charity. Mental Health Motorbike is a free face to face and online mental health first aid support charity for the biker community throughout the UK. It exists to create meaningful and purposeful opportunities, for all bikers, so that together we grow the wellbeing of the biker community. This is done through 1 to 1 and peer support, events, training activities and projects, working in partnership with other organisations and clubs such as the Widows Sons. Paul has helped many bikers through some dark times and he says that the £200 will pay for 4 bikers to undertake the Mental Health First Aid course for just £50. The course would normally cost £325. Once qualified the biker will wear a patch so that any biker having mental health problems can approach him for support. Mental health is a growing issue, especially with the current living crisis and the Notts Chapter are proud to support this worthy charity.

As a result of the chat by Paul one of our associates, Claire Webster, has taken the course and is finding it very interesting.

Blood Bikes

Nottinghamshire Province has donated £5,000, which was matched by the MCF to provide the funds for a brand new Blood Bike. Notts Chapter member, W Bro John Pawlik was instrumental in raising the £10,000. The bike, a Yamaha MT 09 Tracer was presented at a Blood Bike £1 million celebration event. In essence the Blood



Bikes in Nottinghamshire have saved the NHS £1 million. The bike will be named the 'Widows Son'. There were a number of dignitaries at the event including the Lady Mayoress. Notts WS presented a further cheque to Blood Bikes for £200.

Hospital Boxes

Nottinghamshire Chapter have started a food box initiative at the City & QMC hospitals. Members of the chapter donate food for these boxes which they deliver to the children's Critical Care Unit at the City and in the children's neuroscience E40 ward at the QMC. The food is provided for parents of children who may have to stay in overnight. During this time food is not available in the hospital. The parents have access to a kitchen and hot water and can therefore make pot noodles, oat type cereal breakfasts, hot drinks, and snacks which are all provided in the food boxes. This is an ongoing project and to help with this Notts Chapter intend to canvas lodges that might want to make a donation to support this project.

Bro Sinclair (Timelord), Notts Chapter VP & member of Elliott Lodge 8569 delivered the first food box to the City Hospital which was well received by the ward nurses.

Bro Jardine (Divvy) delivered boxes to the QMC, which have proved so popular that other Wards

are requesting them.

Tri-Chapter Camp

On September 9th we held a Tri-Chapter camp with Merlin & L&R. There was a good number of partners and kids in attendance making it a very family orientated event. With the temperature in excess of 30°C it was perfect for sitting around and chilling with a beer in hand. With such hot weather a group of us went across to the pub which sits on the banks of the river Soar. This is a popular location with the locals for paddle boarding and kayaking. The water was so inviting we just had to get in for a swim. After we had all cooled off a little it was back to the campsite for more chilling.



Wax & Wheels Lazy Sunday

Notts Widows Sons are building a nice relationship with a local community centre out of which runs Acacia Radio <http://acaciaradioaw.weebly.com/> The Widows Sons have attended a couple of their 'Big Breakfast' events at the community centre that are run in conjunction with Clumber Lodge. When we were asked by W Bro. Shaun Hayfield & Bro. Dale Shatliff if we would go along and support their annual Lazy Sunday Wax & Wheels event we were more than happy to oblige.

The show was in it's 10th year and although predominantly a car show it was a great opportunity to get the motorbikes noticed and also provide a Masonic presence at a public event.

To attract attention Notts member W Bro Steve Frixou took his recently completed replica 'Easy Rider' chopper along. This really was a showstopper.



Pilgrims Chapter Update

18/3/23

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.

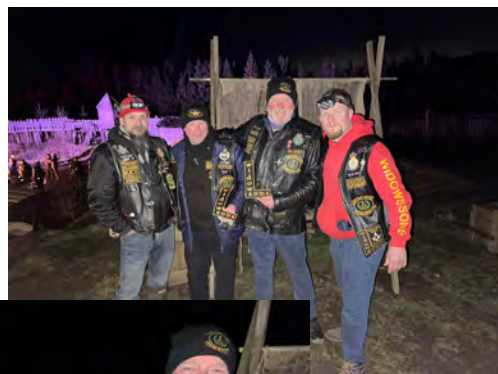


After the ceremony and I hope he doesn't mind, Robbo was fairly emotional with what he had gone through. I then awarded them both with their Large "L"'s as Branded Brothers.



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.



Easter 2023

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!



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

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.



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!

PROFILE OF A PILGRIM

BY BROTHER MARTYN (BADGER) BUTCHER

Badger, Biking and Brotherhood

Hi, my name is Martyn Butcher (road name "Badger"). I'm a member of the Pilgrims chapter of Widows Sons MBA and am currently the Chapters Treasurer. I've been asked to provide you guys with a bit of background to my journey in Freemasonry and my introduction into the world of the Widows Sons.

Firstly, I think I should say a little about my road name. It was first coined by my kids when they were young. It was later taken up by my fellow riders when a few years back, sporting a less the subtle two-tone version of my beard it was stated I bore a striking resemblance to a badger. I have it on good authority that the name is supposed to relate to wisdom as in the character in Wind in the Willows, though I find that highly doubtful. Personally, I think it mainly relates to my affinity with rather large badgers having unfortunately hit one at great

speed in my car, ripping out my radiator and nearly writing it off (not to speak of the mess made along quite a section of the Wincanton bypass).

I was brought up in a biking family. My aunt had several bikes post-war when women weren't expected to ride-out. She and her husband toured Europe when he was demobbed, she also excelled herself riding competition grass track racing (posing as a man as women were not allowed to



bike with more than leg power. I longed to have a real motorbike, not just one of these shiny Japanese chrome machines popular in the 1970's. Having, hassled my father for several years to be shown how to ride a bike he finally relented, producing a rather weather-beaten green BSA A7 Shooting Star which a colleague from work had stored in a garden shed for years. For me, this was a beast with 500cc's, a manual advance and retard and a kick like a mule! My father promised me that one day I could ride it. BUT (and a very big but) if I wanted to, I'd have to get it started! So, for the next year or two I spent many hours in a freezing cold garage stripping it down and putting it back together again. Although dad was my guiding hand, it was up to me to carry out the

compete) and riding the Wall of Death at the Kurzel in Southend. My father had been the proud owner of several bikes over the years including a WW2 Indian despatch rider's bike. This ultimately lent itself to the addition of the "chair" as the family numbers grew before having to be traded in for a car when the family grew too large to fit. My oldest brother continued the family tradition. In his younger years he rode the original AJS 500's; "jam jar" rear shocks and all. Later, as a retirement present to himself, he had a fully kitted out Goldwing (or should I say a sofa on wheels).

For me, my history with motorbikes went back to my childhood and youth. From the age of ten I started pining for a chance to ride a

job. I still remember my freezing fingers in that damned garage, setting fire to the crotch of my jeans when the bike backfired with a carb full of Easistart. But most of all, the thrill of it firing up for the first time.

True to his word, dad taught me to ride, and my motorbikes were a key part in making friends, meeting my wife, going to watch the racing at Brands Hatch and so many of my memories.

My Masonic pathway is almost as long as my history with motorcycles. I was brought up in a strongly Christian family. As well as being a previous bike rider, my father was a lay preacher at a local non-conformist chapel. As such, we really had no contact with Freemasonry. However, my oldest brother

bucked this trend. He was introduced to the fraternity by his father-in-law who was a well-known senior mason in the Essex area. David was raised in his mid-twenties, and I vividly recall as a young teenager being proud that my working-class brother was a member of this “shadowy secret world”. Obviously, I had no real idea of what that really entailed. Later, in my early twenties he invited me and my wife to his Ladies Night and asked if I’d be interested in joining too. I was really interested and, if I had stayed in Essex I probably would have followed through with this, but things in my life changed very rapidly.

Soon afterwards my wife and I moved to Devon. It was a huge step for us; new jobs, new responsibilities in an area where we knew no-one. Within a short time, we were blessed with our son and 2 years later a beautiful baby daughter. However, things were tough; as health service workers our pay wasn’t great, and the hours were long. Like all new families there were plenty of trials and tribulations to family life, especially with no family nearby to help. I had to try to keep a healthy work – home life balance. It meant I had little time for me and so Freemasonry had to take a backseat. Even my beloved motorbikes had to take second place with numerous times when finances meant I had to limit myself to four wheels.

But with time, things got easier. I got another motorbike, the kids grew up, my son; now an adult turned to motorbikes too and we started to share the joys of being out on two wheels again.

In his thirties my son underwent a number of changes in his life; he met the woman who would become his wife, changed his job, got his first “big bike” – a Triumph Street Triple and was initiated into the Freemasons. Together, we were riding the roads of Devon when we could. He was keen to explore his new-found passion for the Brotherhood and it was at a Bike meet – Plymouth Megaride that he stopped and spoke to some brothers at a Widows Sons stand. We were invited to ride in one of their annual charity runs; Rob’s run. The day was very special, and we were made very welcome. These guys had an undoubted bond

and passion. When my son said he wanted to join the group I was very happy, and when I was told I as a non-mason could join as an Associate as his support I was over the moon.

Once within the group I quickly felt part of something special; the bond, the banter and the respect these guys had was overwhelming. I soon realised that both Freemasonry and the Widows Son’s was for all. The group included the great and the humble but in all of them you could clearly see the good. There were rough diamonds, boy racers and rat-bike enthusiasts. I loved the Ride outs, socials, nights with the lads (and a few female associates) and the love showed to all the members. However, I also learned about the true nature of Freemasonry.

Eventually I decided I wanted to take the next step. Robbo (our WS almoner) was happy to support my advancement and supported my introduction into St Thomas lodge Exeter. Then Covid struck! As Lodges closed their door in response to the lock-down I was faced with delays in entering Freemasonry; I was recommended but unable to be proposed. As a group we continued riding out (restrictions permitting) but I had to wait until I could be eventually initiated in November 2021 and raised in November 2022. Now as a Master Mason I’m enjoying the ritual, the fellowship and visiting other lodges (including my Son’s – Zetland lodge Saltash and my Brothers- Henry de Gray, Essex).

So what has both Freemasonry and especially Widows Sons done for me? It’s a Brotherhood; I’m enjoying the riding and the banter. I love the feeling I’m making a difference, raising charity money, visiting Care homes, participating in rides of respect and escorts. I’m very proud to wear my cut whenever I can. Now it’s time for me to give back, to guide new members to the Association and to do my bit as Treasurer of our chapter. To me it’s important I’m raising the profile of the Widows Sons among the freemasonry community and introducing Freemasonry to fellow bikers. Most of all, I’m proud of being part of an International band of brothers which share our bonds of love of motorcycling along with our shared core tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth.

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

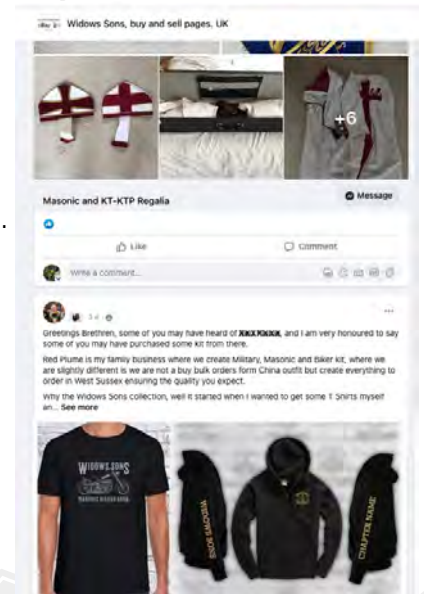
The only criteria to join is to be a Widows Son located in the UK & Ireland.

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....

Beda Chapter Update

BEDA Run to the Sun: Normandy Weekender (8th – 12th June 2023)

At the start of summer, the BEDA President Snatch (BMW RT), Assistant Road Captain Wiggi (Indian Roadmaster), Brother Duffy Cult (ex Police Beema RT), Clanger Baton (the Indian Armchair) and guest Jack(anory) (Royal Enfield Interceptor) spent a mostly warm and dry four days, and 750 miles exploring Normandy.

We headed out from Portsmouth on the overnight ferry to Normandy, arriving in Cherbourg nice and early. Stop one was for coffee and croissants in Saint Mere Eglise and to uncover the story of Paratrooper John Steele (hanging from the Steeple) before taking in Utah beach, a beachside lunch in Blainville, and overnighting in Mont Saint Michele.



Saturday was spent sightseeing in the eye wateringly beautiful Mont Saint Michele, watching Wiggi and Jack(anory) jump off a 61-metre railway viaduct, paying respects to the fallen at the St Percy war graves, and ending up in a French farmer's back yard during a biblical rainstorm. We overnighted right on Omaha beach where the

group bullied Wiggi into eating snails!

Sunday, we explored the D-Day landing beaches, visited the Bayeux tapestry (displaying far more penises than we anticipated. The tapestry, not BEDA), took in tea at Pegasus beach before riding east to overnight in Le Treport. Monday, we cruised up the French coast - dipping in and out of sunshine and sea mist on the stunning D490 road - before taking Le Chunnel home ... and getting a final biblical drenching on the M20. Road guide with routes and hotels is available if you are interested.

BEDA More Support to Herts/Beds Blood Bikers

You'll recall that on 19th May, BEDA and the Grand Lodge of Bedfordshire presented SERV Herts and Beds with their new Toyota Yaris. Our very own clanger Wiggi was asked to be the custodian of the vehicle. After not losing the car for several weeks, Wiggi was further entrusted as custodian of their new BMW 1250RT. He's not lost that either (so far).

Meet the neighbours - Riverside Café in July with Icen

On the 9th July BEDA meandered across Bedfordshire to the Riverside Cafe in Ilkeston and met up for lunch with our brothers in Icen. No-one ran out of fuel, no dead-ends were ridden into, and much conversation was had.



A lovely day out of food and fellowship

BEDA Wales Weekender (10th – 13th August)

In mid-summer 2023, 18 members and Clangers from BEDA headed out for a long weekend in the rugged beauty of North Wales. After breakfast #one in Flitwick, the advance party headed out for breakfast #two at Industry & Supply, Weedon Bec.



the eclectic village of Portmeirion for a late lunch and we rounded out the day riding the coast and mountains. Saturday was spent up in Conwy, where we took coffee in The Jester's Tower - owned by the official Jester of Conwy ('Erwyd Le Fol') and fellow Freemason, Russel Erwood. We clinged to the sea cliffs as we rode the breathtaking Marine Drive before heading back through the hills surrounding Wales' highest mountain, Yr Wyddfa/Snowdon. Sunday was heading home day, but not before more amazing roads and lunch with our brothers in Worcester at Dom's Bikestop.

Fugazi surprised us with a generous weekend of motoring mechanics tuition and regular bike push-starting workouts as we hustled his poorly Harley along. His journey home took almost two days - what a trooper! Goulash overcame his gear shifter making a break for freedom and Snatch and his turkey baster came to the rescue of Wiggi who over filled his Indian with oil. Here's to South Wales in 2024.

Wonderful hospitality from Neal and team at this not to be missed venue.

English country wide was enjoyed as we headed over to Ironbridge. We were joined by the rest of the group for lunch and ice creams at this World Heritage location. Pictured are Nunny Bear, Goulash and Wildcat modeling this year's must have gentlemen's outfits.

Members volunteering and charity fund raising

When not out on bikes, our members have been out and about supporting charities over the summer. Wiggi spent two days walking around the entire Isle of Wight raising money for Cancer Research (and losing 5 toenails and the ability to walk comfortably for many days). He was also out promoting and fund raising for SERV



The larger pack headed out through more countryside and into Wales. We were welcomed to the Oakeley Arms hotel, Tan Y Bwlch by Fugazi and Jamjar who'd made it down from their new home in Scotland - more on Fugazi later. Dinner, drinks, and a feeble attempt at singing rounded out the evening.

What a weekend! After the long ride over, we took Friday easy(ish) with a short jaunt up to Zipworld to hurtle down the mountainsides and play underground golf. The afternoon took us to

Herts and Beds at the Ampthill Gala and Flitwick Car and Bike show. Goulash completed both a Skyscraper challenge (42 floors in 11m57) and a half-marathon (the run not the chocolate bar. Who wants only half a chocolate bar? - an amazing 1h58m btw) . He was also out volunteering with Bedford SOS bring food/drinks to the less fortunate, local homeless folks. Pugwash shaved off his impressively-gnarly west coast biker beard for our charity pot.

Investiture – Suffolk Chapter

The investiture of RW Provincial Grand Master Jolyon Berry was a wonderful day for Freemasonry in Suffolk and especially so for the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association nationally, for our newly installed RW PGM is a patched member of the Suffolk Chapter, elevating awareness of our motorcycling fraternity and the charitable work we do whilst enjoying our hobby.

Awakening the curiosity of the brethren, we were very well-received with many encouraging words of support from Brothers reminiscing tales of motorcycling escapades, whilst some were whispered conspiratorially retelling humorous two-wheeled tales of their youth, and others revelling in the memories of romantic dalliances from years past not unsurprisingly the common theme from the stories was they all seemed to involve some very understanding spouses!

With special dispensation granted by the United Grand Lodge for the event we were permitted to wear our leather waistcoat cuts throughout the RA and Craft ceremonies creating quite the spectacle. Introductions by our Suffolk Chapter President Wbro. Glen 'Olly' Oliver, graciously supported by our good friends and neighbours from the Norfolk Chapter, presided over by Wbro. Martin 'Silver Fox' Culverhouse, they along with a large contingent of members helped make the day a huge success.

At the close of the Craft Investiture, we had the opportunity and the great pleasure to present to the newly installed PGM a donation of £250 from WSMBA Suffolk Chapter, gratefully received he requested it be pledged to the 2029 Festival which we were most pleased to do so.

We hope our presence aroused plenty of interest from the brethren and will encourage many to uncover an old motorcycle that may be tucked away in a garage and join us for ride outs, either way we certainly look forward to exhibiting our unique motorcycling regalia again soon at a Masonic and Charity event



Surrey Chapter Update

Hi Everyone in a sort of order here is Surreys lot....

Various rides and outings ACE, Moto Legends, Rykers, Newlands and a new one for some of us Whiteway's cafe Bury Hill all getting us visible in varied weather conditions but always with a smile and a mix of riders.



Ireland 10-year Rally I took myself across to Ireland with some Shires members in June and as ever the friendships love, and fraternity just continues to grow and is a shining example of what can be achieved. The Irish crew put



on a great event and looked after us all well, I feel I must add the amount of membership from the UK was very low, considering the support Ireland has shown us in the past, so much so we were well outnumbered by a great contingent from Denmark and all those that never attended did both themselves and Ireland an injustice, moment past and a great time had by all. I also had an opportunity to reunite a lodge jewel from 1966 back to its mother lodge Kilwaughter No 762 which was well received by those involved, thanks to Prep School after receiving the jewel from a friend and passing it to me to return, so with a fine amount of coordination between others from Ireland WSMBA, lodge members and ourselves the jewel has been returned and will sit in the masonic museum for all to enjoy.

Norfolk Care home After a social media shout out from a chap who wanted to get some bikes to a care home for his Dad who was a rider and recently succumbed to dementia I rallied the troops and we arranged a meet at the home,



unknown to me another couple of riding groups did the same and we had over 50 bikes attend and residents, staff and bikers all gathered in the carpark for an enjoyable couple of hours, topped off by a local preschool unit coming in to see the bikes, the residents shared stories of yesteryear and biking which was heart-

warming listening to some of the memories of our older generation. Charity at its finest.

Worlingham Fair We had a stand at the fair and it was pitched next to the Surrey masons pitch so a lot of interest and cross pollination, we interacted with many visitors and as every promoted WSMA in a good light, raising a few quid in the process.



National Rally We attended and had lots of fun, won't say a lot as many others will do so, we did however patch in 2 x joining members, 1 x Cornerstone and 2 x new members to the group, welcome to Surrey.

Surrey Annual BBQ Another successful event has been and gone, not even thunder and lightning prevented what started as a sunny event from being anything but enjoyable and full of emotion. In the main the emotion was due to us patching in a very special Cornerstone who attends many rides, always brings a smile and a certain amount of sass and entertainment, every time she joins us.



So welcome to Milos granddaughter Ginge our youngest addition to Surrey she took her pledge albeit mirroring my stance during the

patching, her excitement at getting her cut lasted well after the event had concluded as rumours have it her cut stayed on that night whilst she dreamed her dreams. Thanks to all those who helped set up, purchase, prepare the food, cook, and pack away, big thanks also to all who attended or if could not attend donated anyway. And those who brought or purchased raffle prizes we also had a good visitation from Zeds mother lodge Compass Rose 9045 who certainly bolstered the numbers, and by the time this goes to print Zed will be its WM for his first stint of being in the big chair. Whilst I am still awaiting some final items to be appropriately billed, we increased our charity pot more than £500 by holding this event.

Sheep well one particular sheep has picked on one of our members MEG who is a stout 6ft fella whilst minding his own business enjoying a few days in Wales with the Triumph off road team allegedly whilst traversing a certain section of the track this sheep jumped out of a tree and tried to steal his bike, resulting in Meg departing from his bike and the sheep deciding it had better things to do than hang around so off it strutted, without a bruise back to its own kind. The result of the altercation being Meg will not be riding until sometime in November due to several broken & fractured body parts. Whilst we continue to bleat on about it at



every opportunity, we do wish Meg a speedy recovery as I am sure all of EWE do too....

Denmark 10-year Rally Well that was a great ride in good company across Europe & rally meeting with over 100 others for a memorable weekend full of fine company, great rides, beer by the trailer load and superb food all in great weather to. A recommended rally for anyone's bucket list. Thanks to Double Tap of Shires for sorting out the ride, ferries, accommodation stop overs and getting us there & back safely although I left earlier than planned due to work commitments and solo rode back which was



a most enjoyable trip across part of Europe overnight Sun/Mon morning.

Surbiton Festival Due to some clashing of plans or just not enough weekends in the year some of the usual group could not attend however thanks to Chef and others we still had a representation at the event and were well received.

Norf & Sowf meet up Scarborough I had intended to attend this however a bout of ill health and family commitments put my whole



week into another diary, so I not only missed WSC55 meeting and the exultation of one of our newest WS members on the Friday but also the weekend meeting up with our Scottish brothers and sisters for some ale, bikes, and banter. Hopefully it was successful enough to try to do it again next year.



In closing: A short update due to life getting in the way, please take care, ride well and see you soon.

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

Sussex Chapter update

We have had a full itinerary of rides and events last summer and now with Christmas rapidly approaching, this means a busy time for the Sussex Chapter of the WSMBA. This is the season that includes rideouts, various events, and our Annual Toy Run.

AGM

Widow's Sons Masonic Bikers Association, Sussex Chapter, held its Annual General Meeting on a Saturday morning in July at the Custom Cafe, a very fitting venue for us and just across the road from where we hold our shooting events. As this was also National Gummi Worm day, gifts of Gummi Worms were handed out to those who attended and which were posted out to those who were unable to attend.

As one would expect, the meeting kicked off with a 'Full English' breakfast, followed by reports from the various Officers on their roles and reflections from the outgoing President (Karl Hopper-Young) on what had been achieved so far which made impressive reading.

We proposed and seconded all the Officers for the ensuing year.

We created a Merchandise Manager, in the guise of Andy Brown, who is a Cornerstone.

We also created a role called Co-Ord, aka "knocker-upper" in the guise of Jon Sewell, This involves rallying the troops before an event to ensure we have a good turnout, and reminding them in good time of events, so they don't end up with their diary being full of clashes.

Andy Dalziel, (Diesel) was proposed and seconded as Almoner, this is his second year.

Josh Crutchfield has taken the role of Charity Steward.

Adam Ketley is our Treasurer, he was recently branded in March this year up in Scotland alongside Karl Hopper-Young and Dan McLusky.

Assistant Treasurer is Jonny Morgan. Jonny has spent many years in Financial Services

and is a member of British No 8 Lodge, which recently celebrated its 300th anniversary at UGLE (2022).

Following the AGM, Richie Bull accepted the role (new to us) of Sergeant at Arms.

Secretary for the Chapter is Karl Hopper-Young, a Widows Sons member since 2008 and who is also branded. John Button in addition to his main role as Chaplain, is also Assistant Secretary.

Our Road Captain, Simon Rideout, will continue in this role for one more year, whilst Jonny Morgan is being trained and developed to take over this important office next year. Simon has also taken over as Vice President of the Chapter. Simon is well respected and is a serving

Police Officer in the Road Policing Unit (RPU) with many years experience and a considerable background.

The President for the ensuring year is Dan McLusky, He's been Vice President for the last year and has done a wonderful job in supporting the President and indeed the other Officers and is well placed as leader of the Chapter, well respected and represents everything that Widows Sons believe in.

The new President was given a WS branding iron, symbolically to enable him to make a good impression within the Province of Sussex, to the members of the Chapter and those nationally, as well as the public and the charities that we support. He will be supported wholeheartedly and without deviation by all the Officers, members of the Chapter and the Cornerstones.

We move forward into the 2023\24 period with a Chapter of 42 members, broadly spread between Widow's Sons and Cornerstones, which has always been our objective. We also have directly facilitated individuals becoming initiated into Freemasonry, four over the last year.

The outgoing President was given a gift of a motorcycle track day with a motorcycle, so he doesn't have to write off his own bikes! which was gratefully received.

If you're interested in becoming a Widows Son or a Cornerstone, get in touch.

secretary@wsmbasussex.com or 07860 490634.

NATTER NIGHTS

We continue with our monthly Natter Nights at the Cock Inn, Old Uckfield Road, near Lewes, East Sussex where we have been coming for a number of years. We are always warmly welcomed and enjoy good company and good food.



BARFORD COURT SUMMER FAYRE AT THE RMBI CARE HOME IN HOVE, EAST SUSSEX

On Sunday 23rd July at 1 pm, this garden was full of delight and excitement. We were also blessed with fine weather enabling staff, residents and visitors to sit outside in the sunshine.

An afternoon of music, games, stalls selling everything from plants, strawberries & cream with alcoholic or soft drinks and everything in between. We were fortunate to be granted a licence to run the bar, thanks to Brighton and Hove City Council. The Pimms was extremely popular!

We were joined at the event by the bikes and riders from DocBike and by SERV Sussex, two services which provide essential life saving services. Our very own Sussex Chapter bike joined the crew in sharing the great work they do in the community and gave people a chance to sit on a beautiful bright yellow Harley-Davidson, the pride and joy of Karl



Hopper-Young!

We were delighted to have Brighton's very own singing Barber, Peter Joannou serenade us all afternoon. Peter has been featured on TV and recently met and sang alongside Rod Stewart at Peter's barber shop in The Lanes, Brighton.

Our PGM, Chris Moore honoured us by drawing the raffle, and our Deputy PGM, Maurice Adams, assisted in manning one of the many stalls.

Clay Pigeon Shoot

In September we held another Clay Pigeon shoot on my land at Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex. The weather was not so kind this year but we were fortunate to have the MHM gazebo to shelter under to keep both ourselves, our drinks and our BBQ food dry!

Once again prizes were awarded to the best and worst shots but it did not really matter whether or not you won, it was just a great day out with good friends.

Ride of The Ruperts

This year a detachment of Sussex Chapter

members led by our VP and Road Captain Simon, ably assisted by our Charity Steward Josh, joined in with the Ride of The Ruperts group in Rudgwick, Surrey. This is a marvellous organisation which raises funds for Whizz Kidz, a charity which provides children and young people with wheelchairs. It is truly humbling to see how the lives of these children are transformed when they become mobile.



Dover Transport Museum

On Sunday 1st October we met at Polegate Service Station before heading out for an amazing day at the Dover Transport Museum in Dover, Kent. This is well worth a visit with many types of bikes, vehicles and memorabilia to keep all ages interested. It is a bit of a shock though when you can remember seeing the vehicles being driven or ridden in everyday use!

Ace Café, London and Walk The Bridge

On October 8th we travelled to one of our



favourite venues at the Ace Café in London. As usual this was very busy but we all had a great time looking at all the wonderful variety of bikes on display.

This was followed by the Walk The Bridge event in support of mental health.

Annual Christmas Toy Appeal

We are now working hard collecting toys and gifts for our annual Christmas Toy Appeal with brightly decorated collection bins placed in masonic centres in Brighton and other locations. As in previous years, we will meet in Hailsham to start the day with mugs of tea and bacon butties whilst loading up the bikes which will be decorated with tinsel and lights, dressing up as Santa and delivering toys and vouchers to the Conquest Hospital in Hastings, the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital in Brighton, and to Chailey Heritage Foundation near Lewes. Our Merchandising Officer, Andy Brown, will be making deliveries to Demelza in St Leonards on Sea, to Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead and to the Children's Respite Trust in Uckfield. If you would like to be a part of this event, please do let us know. Hopefully it will not be as cold as last year when it was very frosty and a little slippery in places!



Deputy GrandMaster Sir David Hugh Wooton Honored at Percy Lodge #1427

In a momentous occasion at Percy Lodge in Northumberland Province, Deputy GrandMaster Sir David Hugh Wooton was welcomed with open arms. The esteemed visit was not only a mark of distinction for the lodge but also a significant event for the wider community.

Sir David, a notable figure as a board member of the charity LifeLites, brought his wisdom and dedication to Percy Lodge, further strengthening the bonds between charitable organizations and local communities. LifeLites, renowned for its commitment to enhancing the lives of children in hospices through technology, found a supportive ally in Percy Lodge.

Percy Lodge holds a special place for the Widows Sons members in Northumberland, serving as a gathering point for their philanthropic endeavors. The Widows Sons, recognized as Platinum donors to LifeLites, embody the spirit of generosity and compassion that defines the Masonic community.

In a touching gesture of recognition, Sir David was bestowed with Honorary membership to the Northumbria Chapter of the Widows Sons during his visit. This act not only highlights the mutual respect between Sir David and the Widows Sons but also underscores the collaborative efforts towards charitable causes.

The event at Percy Lodge serves as a beacon of unity and altruism, showcasing the power of collaboration in making a positive impact on society. As Sir David continues to champion the noble cause of LifeLites, his visit to Percy Lodge stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of service and brotherhood within the Masonic fraternity.



Next issue

The Spring issue of **THE Son** will be published on 1st September 2024

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>



Son