

THE SON



Issue 3
Autumn 2021

Welcome to the Autumn edition of **"The SON"**. It has been great to see so many of our Brethren getting together since the end of lockdown, and starting to enjoy each other's company again. It has given myself and many others a real boost, and a reminder of first and foremost what the Widows Sons is about, great friendship and Brotherhood.

Now that the temperatures are starting to drop and the nights are getting shorter, we still have a lot to look forward too. My lodge has its first meeting in September, and we are initiating two of eight candidates who have been patiently waiting for the end of lock down to take their first steps into Masonry. Once through their degrees in Masonry, they will then begin their journey to become members of the Widows Sons. I hope you are all looking forward to returning to Masonic activities, please support your lodge, as the return to normality may still take some time, and without Masonry we have no WSMBA.

I was recently asked the question, what would you do with your time if you were not in Masonry? And I struggled to find an answer. I have been

a Mason for nearly 30 years now, and it has provided me with a lifetime of experiences that I would never have had if I had not been a member. From visiting lodges overseas, to taking part in ceremonies, and attending meetings at Grand Lodge. However, these pail into insignificance when compared to the life changing moment, I put on a vest with a Widows Sons patch on it. Yes we have had some challenging moments in our history, which are part of the growing pains of any new organisation, but the people I have met, the great new friends I now have, and the great times we have experienced together have made the many years of my membership the most satisfying and nourishing of my Masonic life. So please do not take what we have for granted, attend and support your lodge, and your Widows Sons chapter, as the two go hand in hand together.

W. Bro Peter Younger
National Chairman



Your Summer Issue Captions:



“AAAAAAAAAAAgadoo doo doo,
push pineapple, shake the tree”

Adge
Shires Chapter Secretary

Official WS Regalia

Just a quick reminder that Icenis are the official suppliers of WSMBA Patches
We also do other bits and pieces (pictured)

Contact me by email for prices and stock:

martin.cargill@live.co.uk

Martin Cargill
(aka *Banger*)
WS MBA Icenis Chapter



THE Son is edited by W. Bro Phil Meynell

Please send submissions (in plain text with attached pictures wherever possible) by email to:
wsmbanews@gmail.com

The first edition of **THE Son** from feedback received was a great success. Long may it continue. For the continued success of this newsletter we need your support with articles updates – come on you all have something to share especially now restrictions are being lifted.

Enjoy!!

Philip Meynell (aka Animal)

“Masons unmasked”

A set of questions to get to know our members.

Name: Jonathan Long.

Which WS chapter are you in: East Midlands.

When did you join Masonry: initiated 01/1999, passed 12/1999, raised 10/2000, Worshipful Master in 2007.

Out of all of your bikes, which has been your favourite: Triumph Sprint RS 955i (Bright Yellow)

What has been your most memorable moment in Freemasonry: Becoming master of the lodge, getting my first provincial honour and being a founder member of Derbyshire Motorcycle Lodge.

What has been your most memorable moment in the Widows Sons: Sitting in a small room with 4 other brothers to start the WS in England and attending the first Austrian Rally.

How long have you been riding motorbikes: 42 years. I got my first real motorbike when I was 17 a Silver Yamaha RD250D.

Pineapple on pizzas yes or no? Yes, but only with ham.

What is the best country you have visited and why: Canada (British Columbia & Alberta) lovely, caring, helpful people and a bit crazy.

What is your favourite degree in craft masonry and why: Installation, watching the Master elect's reactions: confusion, bewilderment and then panic.

What is your favourite higher order in Masonry: KT

What is your favourite type of music: It must be old school Rock the likes of Thin Lizzy, but I do rather like a Rockabilly, listening to Imelda May at the moment.

Apart from masonry and the WS what other past time do you enjoy: Spending time with my lovely wife and our folding camper, I can even handle the trips down to the South of France.

Favourite sweets: Lion Sports mixtures & Fox's Glacier Fruits.

Favourite drink: At the moment it's Magners Cider and single malt Whiskey.

What's the one thing you wish you could do: Fly a plane or helicopter.

What's the one thing you wish you didn't have to do: Work.

If you had one positive message, what would it be: Treat other like you would like them to treat you.



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



Widows Sons of Guernsey and Alderney Roundup

As most of you know on 1 st October, 2020 we lost our friend and brother Zef Eisenberg in a tragic accident whilst breaking one of his many speed records. At the time we were in lockdown restrictions here in Guernsey and so only a very private funeral was held with a follow up memorial a short while later.

The Widows Sons of Guernsey and Alderney together with the Guernsey Bikers Group decided to host a ride out in Zef's memory so we could send him off in the normal way amongst bikers.

The Ride departed from Portlet Cafe at 11.00am and was led by our Immediate Past President brother Lee Corbet and travelled north about until it reached the White Rock Café at around 45 minutes later.

Zef loved the café culture and as someone who really did know him personally rather than through his public profile as a businessman, not much made him happier than when he had ridden around Guernsey and stopped at one of many cafes for a cuppa and a chat (and usually apple pie with custard!

After the ride the Widows sons followed Zef's partner Mirella to his graveside where a wreath was laid and the masonic grand lodge above verse was sung in harmony (was quite weird singing it sober!!). Then we went to Patois Café for some more coffee and cake, well, it would have been rude not to!!



During the ride a collection was taken and over £500 was raised for Grow Limited a Guernsey charity which was supported by the Widows Sons during Lee's time as President.

Over 80 bikers attended the ride and all in all it was a great day out for everyone.

Bro Martin Proudlove
(aka Ritz)

Guernsey and Alderney
Chapter



Time to get the bike out
The excitement makes you smile
You may have washed and polished it
But haven't ridden for a while.

You try to put your jacket on
It won't zip around your waist
It can't have been those hamburgers
Or beers you downed with haste.

Your trousers are so tight
You can hardly reach your shoes
Covid's gav you a nasty case
Of the Leather Shrinking Blues.

East Kent Chapter Roundup

We held our AGM 4th July and duly voted in our new President and Vice President – 3G and Messiah. The event was well attended and held at Strode Park, where we were well fed and watered, and for once it was stayed sunny! We said a fond farewell to our old President/wife, Sully and Helen. Sully has been President for 5 years and in that time has taken the WSEK from its conception to the mad bunch that we are today. Without his unerring faith, leadership, and drive I think it fair to say that the WSEK would not be in the very good position we find ourselves in today!



The East Kent crew made the long journey North up to Hull to attend what would have been the National Rally.

Day 1. The plan was to take a couple of days to get up there stopping en route in Thetford, Norfolk for a brief but satisfying night away from it all, and for some of the crew there first real opportunity post Covid to let there hair down and enjoy themselves...!

Day 2. Saw us making our way up to Hull. I seem to remember the long and tedious straight roads that are very peculiar to this part of the country... bit different to our twisty and somewhat congested

roads in Kent! Good journey up none the less, with the usual stopover in a carpark for some light refreshment... WSEK joke! We had arranged to meet up with the crew from Cheshire who were also staying at the same Hotel and a good time was had by all!

Day 3. What a day... fantastic ride out with the guys from Parisi Chapter. Great bunch of lads who really made us feel welcome and showed us the delights that can be had in this great county.

The tour to see where Heartbeat was filmed was great, and who couldn't resist the fish finger sandwiches that were on offer! It truly was a great ride, taking in some of the beautiful sights that only Yorkshire can offer... thanks for hosting us and treating us so well.



Day 4. The long and very wet journey home... enough said! However, we had a brilliant trip made more so by meeting with our brothers from Parisi and the Cheshire Chapters...

Regards to all from the Widows Sons East Kent....

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

“Masons unmasked”

A set of questions to get to know our members.

Name: Jamie ‘OZZY’ Osborn President Stonecutters.

Which WS chapter are you in: Widows Sons Stonecutters Wilts & Dorset.

When did you join Masonry: I was initiated on 18th January 2018.

Out of all of your bikes, which has been your favourite: “My Harley Davidson Softail Deluxe. I have wanted to own a Harley since I was a young boy and finally got my chance in 2017. There’s nothing better than owning a bike that sets off car alarms and scares old ladies .

What has been your most memorable moment in Freemasonry: My first degree after over a year of waiting to be initiated all I remember is a call being told to turn up at my lodge in a dinner suit and the rest will be explained after, it was the start of something great for me and has consumed most of my life for the better since.

What has been your most memorable moment in the Widows Sons: This July after working so hard for 2 years with the other founding members of stonecutters I was voted in as the chapter President, this is a great privilege for me to be the President of a chapter myself and others have worked so hard to make a great brotherhood of men.

How long have you been riding motorbikes: I have been riding motorcycles since I was a child from owning 2 Honda melodies (purple and yellow) we used to ride around the yard as a kid to trials bikes, zsr100 drag bikes and now my Harley.

Pineapple on pizzas yes or no? No just meat and more meat.

What is the best country you have visited and why: I rode to a small village in France near Brest and accidentally ended up buying the whole town a round of drinks. Luckily, I was hammered and the town was small, although I can’t remember much it’s certainly a trip I’ll never forget .

What is your favourite higher order in Masonry: I am a big advocate of the Holy Royal Arch. It brings to whole story of masonry to a conclusion and answers a lot of questions left unanswered in craft masonry.

What is your favourite degree in craft masonry and why: The First Degree. It’s the first step on a great road.

What is your favourite type of music: I am a big fan of most music as long as its 20 years old or more, my favourites are Ozzy, Sabbath, the Byrds, Skynrd but am just as happy with abit of Andrea Bocelli on a Sunday evening.

Apart from masonry and the WS what other past time do you enjoy: I’m a big fan of photography, I have won a number of awards for my Pet Portraiture from the guild of Photographers.

Favourite sweets: Wispa Gold.

Favourite drink: I want to say beer but im a big fan of a Pina Colada.

What’s the one thing you wish you could do: I wish I could slow down time, I always have 100 things to do a day but never enough time.

What’s the one thing you wish you didn’t have to do: Cleaning, I detest it I usually just ignore it until the Mrs sorts it out.

If you had one positive message, what would it be: Let me tell you something you already know. The world ain’t all sunshine and rainbows. It’s a very mean and nasty place and I don’t care how tough you are it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it. You, me, or nobody is gonna hit as hard as life. But it ain’t about how hard ya hit. It’s about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward. How much you can take and keep moving forward. That’s how winning is done!”

- Sylvester Stallone, Rocky Balboa



West Mids Chapter Roundup

We in the West Midlands have been really busy after our first 30+ people meeting at the NMA, where we patched 4 eagerly waiting Bad Pennies to full membership, we also presented Bad Penny Road name and patches, all done in the Masonic garden at the NMA, brethren moving from the rough ashlar to smooth.



While there we presented cheques to NMA, Royal British Legion, RAF Benevolent Fund, Midland Freewheelers Blood bikes and Staffordshire, Shropshire, Cheshire Bloodbikes.

We then rode to Scott Yarrington's house, Scott was badly wounded in action and is the face of BLESMA, we arrived at Scott's house not knowing it was Scott's sons birthday, I think we made a little boys birthday extra special, whilst we presented a cheque to BLESMA.

We have now distributed all of the rally funds to various charities throughout the midlands area, 11 in total with a minimum of £500.

We held our AGM this year in Linden House, which is Wolverhampton Masonic building, we decided to use Masonic buildings throughout the Midlands for future AGM's therefore spreading around and supporting Masonic buildings.

More good news as Legge Lodge, Staffordshire Motorcycle Lodge have started meeting again and we have our first Saturday meeting coming up in September with a quadruple initiation - one after the other! Burslem Chapter No 98, Staffordshire Motorcycle Chapter have also had their first meeting having rescued them from surrendering their warrant.

Finally don't forget Tamworth Masonic rooms have been booked for meeting up prior to riding into **RTTW**, a sandwich van has been booked for some grub and a hot drink.



Bro Ian Cole

(aka Coley)

President

West Midlands Chapter





25TH SEPTEMBER 2021

WIDOWS SONS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

LIBBATON GOLF CLUB
HIGH BICKINGTON, UMBERLEIGH, EX37 9BS

FIRST TEE OFF AT 10:10AM



£30.00

DAY INCLUDES
BACON BAP AND A BREW
ON ARRIVAL, 18 HOLES OF
GOLF, 2 COURSE SIT DOWN
MEAL AND TROPHY
PRESENTATION



TEXAS SCRAMBLE
4 BALLS IN TEAMS OF 2
NO HANDICAP
REQUIRED



The “Knowledge”

A series of occasional riding tips...

This month: My Road to an IAM RoadSmart Pass, from Michael “Gunny” O’Meara

I’ll be honest, I thought I was better rider than I actually was and I would hazard a guess a lot of bikers are in the same situation I was. But I finally grabbing the bull by the horns and signed up for the IAM RoadSmart course.

I was assigned an observer and arranged my initial assessment ride, and after the admin bits were taken care of, we hit the road. Just over an hour later we finished and then came the bit I had been dreading – the debrief. For anyone who has been riding for a length of time it can be hard to take criticism, but all in all the observer confirmed where I knew I needed help and pointed out some bits I was completely oblivious to.

My observer drew up a plan for how to get me to the required standard and the training started. A bit like ritual, it required more learning and a few pneumonics – ISPGA, POWDDERSS and to be able to recall them and implement them throughout the entire ride.

The logo for IAM RoadSmart. 'IAM' is written in a large, bold, blue, rounded font. Below it, 'RoadSmart' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The background of the logo area features a faint, stylized graphic of a motorcycle helmet and a road winding into the distance.

Attempting to condense the finer details of an advanced riding course into a small article is somewhat tricky, however the fundamentals are based around the acronym IPSCGA, which stands for Information, Position, Speed, Gear and Acceleration. This mantra is used to evaluate what is around you when you are riding and make decisions regarding your speed, gear, positioning on the road as

you ride along – in essence you perform a continuous dynamic risk assessment. So what does IPSCGA stand for?

Information – Study the road ahead and take in any information that it is giving you. Look for pedestrians, the road’s surface, potential hazards such as junctions and use the information to plan your next move. Also provide clear information to other road users so they know what you will be doing.

Position – React to what is happening and move your motorcycle accordingly within your lane for maximum safety. If there is a potential hazard, move away from it, but also position your bike to provide the maximum view through a corner so that you can see a potential hazard as soon as possible.

Speed – Only go as fast as the situation ahead allows, always ensure you can stop if required.

Gear – Rather than stick in one gear, use the bike’s gearbox to give you better acceleration and its engine braking to deliver a smooth ride.

Acceleration – Aim to accelerate smoothly to prevent the suspension overworking and upsetting the bike’s balance by using the bike’s mid-range torque.

Each ride nudged me closer to the my final goal of taking my test, that’s when my observer dangled that “Golden Carrot” in front of my and told me about the “F1rst Pass” which is a faultless exam, achieved by only 2% of all riders in the UK. With a new goal in mind I knuckled down and after a few more rides with my observer I heard the words I had been dreading “It is time”

Check ride book and the second observer signed me off ready – test day here I come. In the meantime, I had found out that my IAM Test Observer was a very well respected ex Metropolitan Police Motorbike rider – No pressure then.

The test day arrived, I cannot stress enough the importance of plenty of rest and to eat properly prior to the exam, or indeed any riding. Bike polished to within an inch of its life (for those who know me that in itself is a miracle) and off I set to the test location followed by my observer. The test itself was fairly straight forward and consisted of a ride lasting about 90 mins and covering about 60 miles. At the end of the test, the examiner asked a number of questions from the highway code – how many types of crossings are there and can you name them ? Finally, the moment of truth – my results, with my heart in my mouth, he begins it was close, my mind goes bugger I failed – he continues but I am pleased to say you have passed and I will be awarding you a “F1rst Pass”



I would seriously ask you to consider taking an advanced course be it IAM or ROSPA. You will never stop learning and who knows you may enjoy yourself throughout the training – I know I did.

<https://www.iamroadsmart.com/courses>

<https://www.rospa.com/safety-training/on-road/motorcycle-training-courses>

A big thank you to Ian Gregson

Its easy to take for granted a lot of what we have within the Widows Sons, but the hard work, effort and commitment required to get us to the well-oiled machine that we are now, often goes un-noticed.

Many years ago, when I was persuaded to become the Chairman of the Widows Sons, we also required a secretary, without hesitation, W. Bro Ian Gregson offered his services for the post. A post he held for 9 years serving the Widows Sons extremely well with passion and dedication. It was a sad day for me when he decided to stand down, but I supported his reasons putting family first which we must always do as Freemasons.

The early formation of many of our chapters, our BMF association membership and insurance cover is largely down to the early efforts of Ian , and I don't think a lot of our members appreciate the time and effort required to get these things running smoothly.

It was my pleasure to attend the “ Meet the Neighbours” event in July, and make a presentation



to Ian on behalf of all of the Widows Sons members, with a nice Widows Sons card, and a contribution from all of our chapters amounting to £600 so Ian and his Wife Anne, can select something together to remember us all by.

Many thanks Ian for all of your help and support for many years



W. Bro Peter Younger
National Chairman
WSMBA UK

Ridings Chapter Roundup



Chapter bbq - June

It was great to be able to hold our summer bbq again this year!!

Perfect weather, fabulous food and £650 raised for our charity pot!



Loughborough - July

Supporting East Midlands Chapter's event, the Ridings headed to Loughborough to help spell out "Matty" with motorcycles. We were most of the "M"!



Close encounters

of the Widows Sons kind...

On a recent trip to Ace Cafe London, the Ridings hooked up with Icenis, East Midlands, The Shires, Southern, South East, Surrey, Sussex and Beda Chapters!!



New members -

Two Fellowcrafts were presented with their Chapter patches this Summer - Bro's Diesel and Buzz.

They will receive their association memberships when they are raised later this year.

Bro Matt Duffy

(aka Yakka)

President

Ridings Chapter



Surrey Chapter Roundup

Since the last update we have been busy and it's been heart lifting being able to get out and about, do some good and rekindle old friendships and form new ones.

Our natter nights have proven to be a success so far and we have had good support from the Surrey group but equally from those adjoining Chapters so thanks to all in the SE for that support and we reciprocate to keep that unity strong.



As we all know charity does not always equal monetary contributions and time spent helping others is as rewarding and benefits the giver and the recipient.

Back in June a few of us took ourselves via Rykas café Dorking a great biking meet up to the SERV Surrey/London base to help them with a large clear out of legacy items and general tidy up of the grounds after they succeeded in securing the site for their own sole use, we were not there long and the credit goes to SERV volunteers for all they do behind the scenes to keep their charity afloat. We did a bit some more than others and it is clear to see that pulling one's weight is a lead by example thing and others might be lacking "I jest" however a picture paints 1000 words.

We have also been out and about meeting other chapters Shires, East Ridings, Southern, Sussex to name a few on planned rides to iconic places such as the Ace Café, H café, Rykas and Brooklands these rides help in forging friendships, as well as the riding, drinking tea and partaking in culinary delights.

Our furthest ride of the year took 7 of us from Surrey / SE to the Mad Panic Rally and traffic, rain and bad sat-navability / instructions "on my part" did nothing to dampen the spirits and fun that was had there. Juinness now there's a thing to put a





big fella to sleep early Jameson in a pint of Guinness ouch.

Our VP Mr Miyagi has been busy with others organising a last-minute BBQ which will have happened before this goes to press at a local Sea Cadets grounds so more on that next time.

He also went to the Brooklands motorbike show and it will be on our calendar next year as a fixture and a potential recruitment/ publicity venue. Strangely he also did the unthinkable and almost created a rift in the time continuum by meeting another Mr Miyagi at the show so as if one was not enough there are two in the County, thankfully ours is a Triumph rider and the other...

Hundreds of bikers attended Brooklands from far and wide including many riders from other local clubs and groups, bikes of all ages sizes and descriptions with an equally varied stock of riders, a great event at a great venue with a great atmosphere, he was approached several times by people recognising the widows sons logo on his cut with many of them asking if we had a stand or display of some



description. (next year) One very keen past master asked for his contact details and he is hopeful a prospective new member, a great opportunity to show our brand and engage with a great many like-minded riders.

Our WSMBA logo – on my return from the Mad Panic Rally 210 miles of rain later I pulled into a services to do the usual and as I was getting myself ready to depart a well-dressed gent walked up to me extended his hand and said “I greet you well brother” looks like you have had a wet ride, we exchanged names I told him what we had been up to and we parted in harmony, he will be visiting Chingford soon with a cut on as he rides but is not yet a WS, that hand shake warmed a damp heart and makes me proud to be on the Square and a WSMBA member.



So upcoming event we will be hosting / attending our BBQ, Cops & Robbers Rally hosted by the Blue Knights, and RTTW, for those on the square some long awaited tyled times are coming and more events and rides are in the pipeline.

The chapter is growing, membership sits at 30 with a good mix of WS & Cornerstones, so the future looks bright. Onwards, and upwards said the Oak tree to the acorn, keep safe and be nice.

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

Stonecutters Chapter Roundup

The summer period has been very busy for the Stonecutters. We held our annual AGM at Salisbury masonic hall where our current President Stepped down and our new Chapter President and Officers took their offices. Since then we have Hosted several events to raise money for The Big Ride 2021 in conjunction with Southern and The Shires Chapters.



In July the Stonecutters hosted a stand at the Wheel Meet Again Classic Car and Motorcycle show at Bournemouth Masonic Hall. We had several activities such as games, lucky dips and merchandise to sell. Although the weather was torrential and with the support of Southern Chapter we managed to raise £140 towards the big ride

Our premier event for the year was our first Annual Ye Olde Cider Rally held at the Dorset Nectar Cider Farm in Bridport supported by Southern and Pilgrims chapter. We spent the morning at Haynes Motor Museum, met up with other chapters then rode as a group to the farm. After a certain pilgrim's member finally pitched

his tent after moving it to the perfect spot 4 times we settled into the cider farm shop and made a good effort to taste all ciders they had on offer, which many members with great success. After many drinks a great BBQ and an amazing night with our brothers around the fire the few remaining stragglers hit the hay. In the morning, our brothers woke up spritely and we headed to West bay for a Fry up to ease the sore heads.



A great weekend was had by all, with donations and a raffle we managed to raise a massive £400 for the Big Ride and we very much look forward to more members attending our little rally next year.

Bro Jamie Osbourne
(aka Ozzy)
President Stonecutters
Chapter



South East Chapter Roundup

South East Chapter completed the mentoring processes to enable the PGB to vote for granting charters for Portugal, (chartered 24th June 2021) and Sussex, (15th July 2021). This takes us to 29 WSMBA Chapters associated to UGLE and its Districts Overseas. For those who love a bit of history, the Ceremony of the Keys tour and visit to the



Yeomans bar have resumed with West Kent Chapter attending on the 9th August.

The next event is on Thursday the 25th November and will be supported by SE and East Kent. £13 per person and includes a drink or two. Although the ceremony is open to the general public, access to the Yeoman's bar is by invitation, and it makes for a cosy evening after an entertaining tour of the grounds prior to refreshments, and then back out to view the ceremony before returning for a nightcap and the raffle draw. Am working on trying to get some Saturdays. Now that the meetings have resumed we are encouraging our members to circulate summonses so we can support each other, especially significant ceremonies.

Lifelites has been in touch and are planning an event similar to their tour around the country that many chapters supported. I have asked them for an article for The Son as they were created by Freemasonry and are keen to maintain their masonic link. For those not familiar with them Lifelites is the charity which gives life-limited and disabled children using hospice services across the British Isles the chance to play, be creative, control something for themselves and communicate, through the magic of assistive technology. They are working on a virtual experience which we, the WSMBA, can be part of, details will follow. In the meantime, keep safe and well and the shiny side up.



W. Bro Gregory Kirby
(aka *Prepschool*)
South East Chapter

STONECUTTERS VS SOUTHERN
FAMILY SKITTLES NIGHT
£5.00 PER PLAYER
TEAMS OF 6

WIDOWS SONS
MASONIC BIKERS ASSN.

20TH NOVEMBER
3PM
KINGS COURT MASONIC CENTER
CHANDLERS FORD
EASTLEIGH
SO53 2GG

WIDOWS SONS
STONECUTTERS

VS

WIDOWS SONS
SOUTHERN

SKITTLES NIGHT

ALL MONEY RAISED WILL BE SPLIT EQUALLY BETWEEN THE 2 CHAPTER FOR THEIR CHOSEN CHARITIES

Wyvern Chapter Roundup



Wyverns AGM took place at the end of July and saw myself nominated and voted in as the new President of the Chapter from our founding President Harry 'Riff' Blinston. We conducted our business at Tuckers Grave, a cider camp site where we held the AGM in the barn. Once all the formalities and business had been finalised, I was proud and honoured to then patch in four new members. With wives, children and friends invited to the party it saw an incredible day, turn evening overnight party ensue with copious amounts of alcohol consumed by us all in true Wyvern fashion.



Since starting as Wyvern we have grown from 13 founding members to 22 members with several in the pipeline. During lockdown we have assisted in delivering medical supplies and food, and even helped an older mason move house at short notice of 24 hours after he had an accident pulling together to help the community.

Our aim to establish a chapter in the region of Gloucester is gathering interest rapidly. On the 14th August we travelled to Highnam House to support a provincial day and went in force to show everyone we are active in the community and gain some more interest for Gloucestershire masons.



We feel as a newer chapter in the MBA that we are off to a fantastic start and even had Parasi Chapter come to visit us with a trip around our county including Cheddar Gorge and Glastonbury Tor. We hope to travel up to them and see there county and continue building on the bonds of friendship we have made with them as a chapter.

As a serving Royal Marines Commando I'm keen to set my charity sights up towards the Royal Marines Association Charity. I'm in talks with the old Corps RSM who helps run the RMA and it may even see Wyvern chapter visiting the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines located in Lympstone for a cheque handover and even potentially ending up in the RM magazine, The Globe and Laurel, which may help gather even more interest in the WS and may even see a few more Royals join the craft.

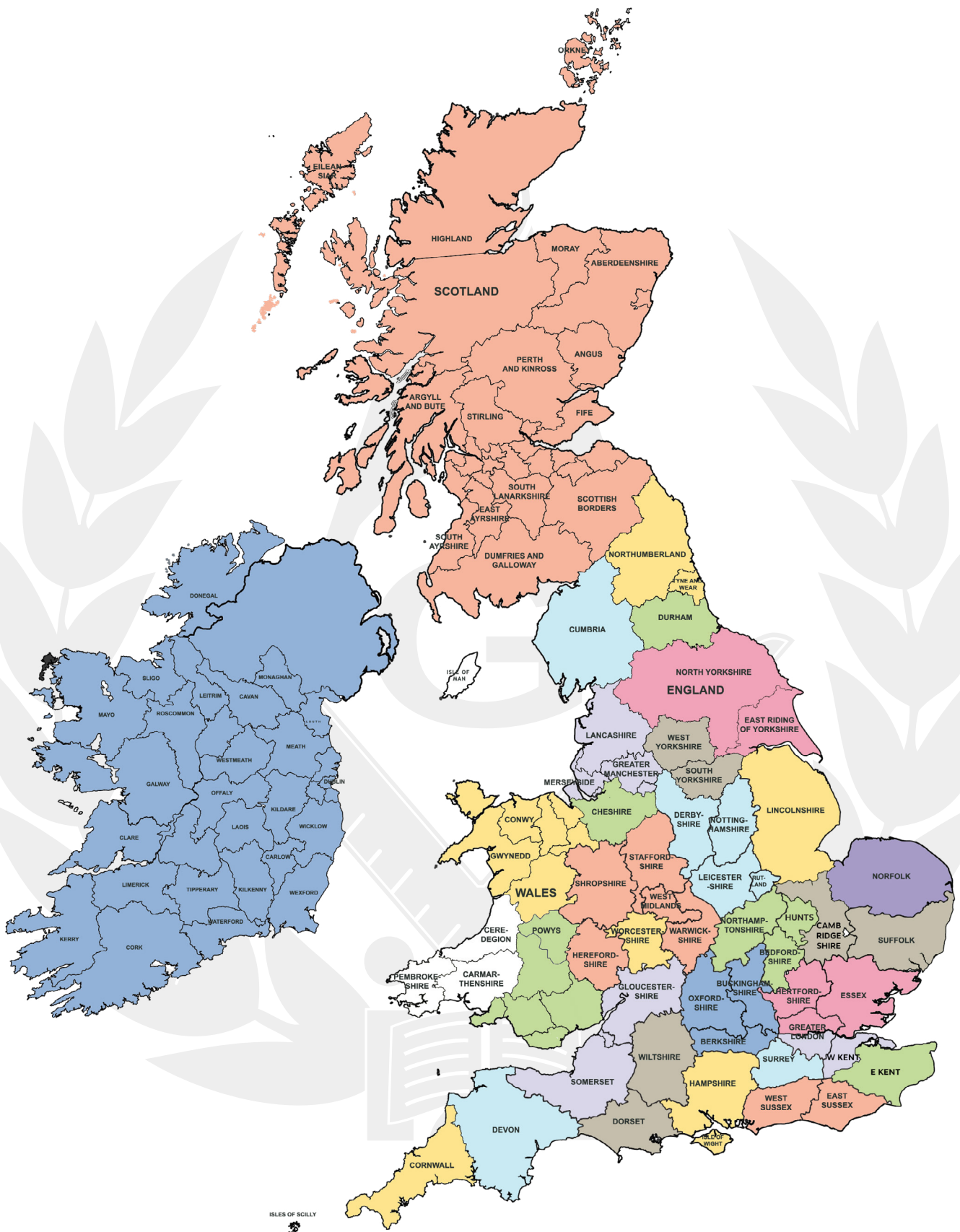


Looking forward as a chapter to riding and seeing you all soon.

W. Bro Jim Hayward
(aka *Royal*)
President
Wyvern Chapter

Who and where

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



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

Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Assn. Big Ride 2021

11 - 25 JUNE 2022

Wednesday 18th August & the last Natter Night and BBQ before the Big Ride, and it's fair to say there was an air of expectation and apprehension for what we'd all agreed to do.

The new Southern Chapter President Mike (Flat Cap) Haywood presented the organiser of this and all previous Big Rides – Trevor (Claret) Hutcheson with a small token of our appreciation for all the hard work (well a big bottle actually) – with a request to leave it unopened until we get back!



7:15am the next day, Claret was at Kings Court before most of the rest of us, obviously not hungover, so it was clear he'd heeded our advice.

There was a general hubbub of nervous energy as the Chapter and unofficial Ridings representative, Frank Milner, fuelled up with Bacon Baps and Coffee, provided free by the caterers for Kings Court Masonic Centre (Mega thanks Simon).

Remarkably, Frank (a mere 80 years young), rode down from Tingley (South of Leeds) to Peacehaven the night before, so had already travelled 80 miles before the rest of us arrived,

he then travelled all the way up to John O'Groats and back with us... pretty impressive.

Then the dignitaries arrived - the Past PGM for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight – Mike (Ninja PGM) Wilks, shortly followed by the Mayor Of Eastleigh, and the representative of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance; and all were warmly greeted. An interesting time to present a cheque for last year's ride I hear 7:30 in the morning... ah well, Covid restrictions hampered all previous plans to visit the Helicopter base.

So once assembled, the Mayor of Eastleigh and Mike Wilks assisted in presenting the £10,000 cheque from last year's ride to Natalie of the HIOWAA.



In thanking us, Natalie noted that we were by far the biggest single non corporate contributor to their charity. To be fair, on top of the Bacon Baps (other meat free substitutes are available) and coffee (or Tea in Sprockets case) that was enough to get us to Membury Services without using any fuel.

Special thanks to Past President Francesco for bringing (and taking home) the massive cheque and displaying his leg scaffolding ... and his sexy knees.

So, after the safety briefing by Claret, and with Ninja PGM as second man, the group set off for Membury Services to be joined by the Shires and Stonecutters chapters,

Extra special thanks go to Ninja PGM for riding with us to Membury, especially as he admitted it was touch and go whether he could make it, as it was a bit of a problem getting his leg over.

A pleasant surprise was the arrival of Ian from the North West Chapter to join us, who'd ridden

all the way down from Chorley to ride back up to Runcorn with us.

That's what I call commitment from Frank and Ian – and the pair were damn fine company as well (must be some kind of Northern Trait... just saying).

Although Southern were riding for HIOWAA, The Shires were looking to raise funds for The Thames Valley Air Ambulance, and the Stonecutters main charity is The Loganberry Trust in aid of Prostate Cancer; with each looking to raise in excess of £5k on top of the Southern £10k + for the HIOWAA a Big Ride indeed.

Following the obligatory photo of the Presidents with Ninja PGM and Claret, we said goodbye to Mike Wilks.



At Membury the complete group re-organised itself into 4 logical units, 2 Southern, 1 Shires and 1 Stonecutters, for optimum ride management and safety, so after complementing Sammy on his excellent choice of hair and beard decoration ...



... the Southern pack set off for Wales, to be later followed by The Shires and the Stonecutters.

Once the ride had entered Wales, we were met at Magor services by a contingent from South Wales

Chapter, and another increase in numbers.

Many, many thanks to The President Shaun for the hospitality, history discussion, inter-nation banter, and excellent company all the way to Devils Bridge, where the group took the opportunity to stretch their legs and check out the local transport facilities ...



... and then after a slightly wet photo we left Shaun to return to Newport, and the Riders then set off for Runcorn.

This was the longest segment of the day, and the riders didn't arrive at Runcorn until around 8:30, so just under 12 hours on the road. As usual the weather and traffic completely ruined our timeline so, as the Stonecutters arrived before us, Jamie helpfully received a cheque from the Cheshire WS for the HIOWAA on our behalf.



Thanks Jamie & special thanks to Cheshire for your donation to the Big Ride ... it was gratefully received ... and it will be faithfully applied.

After a quick call to the pub restaurant to keep the kitchen open, a few Stonecutters

and Southern headed off for refreshments. Still in our waistcoats, we were asked what the patches meant and why we were there. Being the most coherent at the time, (and more likely the closest), Fudgie explained it was a charity ride from Southampton (he didn't know where Chandlers Ford was) to John O'Groats.

At least one sensitively cooled Guinness – (and perhaps a half an hour) later, several people turned up at the table and we were given various donations amounting to over £35 for the ride. £2 here £10 there, and a guy in a wheelchair who insisted we take his evening leftovers of £7. Completely mind-boggling generosity, which went towards the Stonecutters fund – a suitable reparation for collecting our cheque for us.

Friday 20th saw a 7:00am start with 480 miles to go before evening refreshments, and the first stop Skelton Lake Services where about 10,000 people from the Ridings Chapter welcomed us. (Well, might be a bit less, but seemed at least 10k).

Once the bikes were parked, the Ridings Chapter presented the “top brass” (their words) of the Mark Master Masons Provincial Grand Lodge with a cheque in the sum of £500.00



to go towards their festival in aid of the MMM Benevolent Fund.

Many thanks to Riding Chapter for including us in your celebration and presentation, and apparently Frank Milner's pseudonym is “Uncle Albert”, can't understand why, because Albert was

a cockney... although it does look as if he's wearing a life jacket.

Mind you with the weather to come – it would've been a good plan.

After the presentation, sixteen brothers of the Ridings Chapter group rode in convoy with

the Big Ride Team through West Ridings and on to the Angel of the North. With the group growing and shrinking through the waypoints, it was a particularly satisfying feeling to ride with so many bikes of the Ridings Chapter and the group certainly attracted a great deal of attention from other road commuters and pedestrians.

(Thanks to Matt Duffy for providing input, although not sure he was expecting me to rip so much from his article.)



On arriving at the Angel of the North we were welcomed by some of the other members of the Ridings Chapter and was a pleasure to meet and greet the WSMBA National Chairman, Peter Younger, as well as another Photo opportunity – another picture ... who knew.

Again - many thanks to the Ridings Chapter to escort us to the Angel of The North.

It's a special experience being welcomed into a site of special interest, (in this case the Angel which is stunning) by a group of Widows Sons, most clad in leather with the WSMBA Badges shining proud on their waistcoats.

In case you think it's photo shopped – that's the real Angel in the background – and it's supposed to be that colour. For future reference we'll need someone else to carry the Southern Chapter banner on the Ride, as a new President does not deserve the grief from his Chapter over the time it takes for him to pack the banner away and get ready.

Well not all of it anyway.

Now members of the Northumbria and Durham Chapters escorted the group for lunch, and its

special thanks to our Grand Chairman for looking after Flat Cap's (my) helmet & gloves whilst I was negotiating for the largest piece of strawberry cheesecake in the NorthWest, thus ensuring sufficient fruit intake for the rest of the day.

To be fair I was informed by the lovely Geordie lass that although it was the largest piece of cake, it contained the least amount of calories.

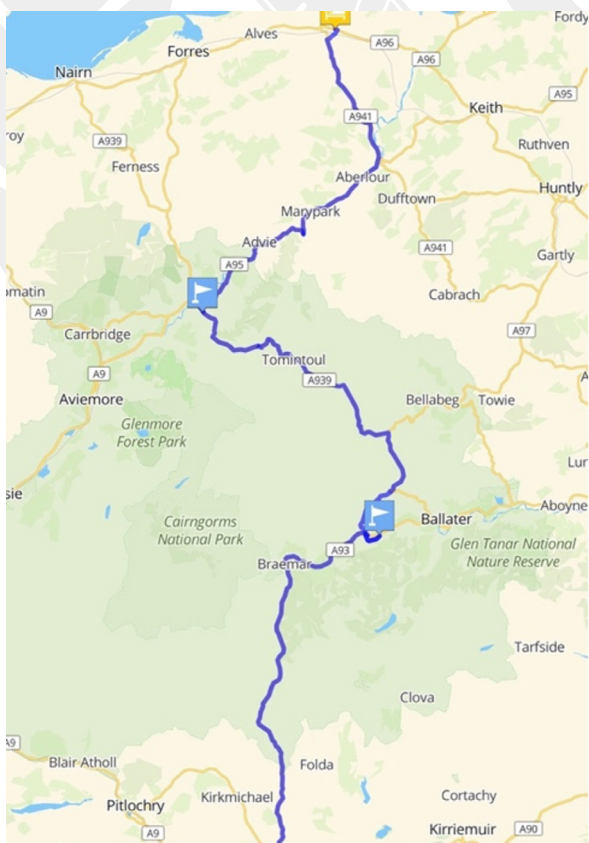
Thanks Peter

After the group had again waited for the new President (Me ... Sigh) to get ready, we were guided expertly around Newcastle's heavy traffic by George Young impressive ride leadership. The whole Big Ride group offer thanks all the members – especially George for the skilful manner in which we were escorted on to our next waypoint, Dregghorn services outside Edinburgh.

Scotland:

Why does it always feel as if you're riding uphill, even when you're at sea level... perhaps its just me. However, we were met by a pathfinder group led by East President Rob, to escort us to Broxden Services in Perth.

Damn those boys can ride; however, that was the easy bit, after topping up with caffeine and "man food" we set off for Elgin, via Braemar.



Have look on the map for the A9 and the A939 via the Cairngorms – it's a lot bendier than it looks... honest!

Apologies Rob, if I didn't get the exact route – I was too busy not falling off. I think I'll go back one day and take a day or two instead of a few hours. The riders had a chat at Elgin & generally agreed that pretty much everyone was concentrating on not dropping their bike into a picturesque salmon stream... or hitting a ewe and her lambs wandering across the road (or otherwise known as a winding cycle path in Hampshire) to fully enjoy the breath-taking views. But it was one of the very best rides, and the scenery we'd all experienced.

However Rob, it's worthy of note, that at least the New Forest down in the South has a 40 mph speed limit so you don't flatten the wildlife and is as flat as a beavers tail. (just saying)

Good news is that all the bikes passed the emergency stop test, but wow, what we did see was stunning hills and burns, although not ideal on a stretched Harley.

More thanks to the Scottish lads for all the videos, which we'll post on Southern Facebook page as none of us are clever enough to work out how to put a video in a newsletter.

Some aching bodies enjoyed good food and company before retiring, when a Geordie lass, visiting for a wedding asked if she could have our JustGiving page details as her party wanted to contribute to the cause.

We were again stunned by the generosity of people who just happened to hear us talking (well almost shouting at each other across the tables if I'm honest); ... beer does that I'm told.

Saturday was just a bit wetter (understatement) and it's off to John O'Groats, although this time we had a lie in as we didn't leave until 8:00. To be fair it was nice to start the day with a bit of breakfast. Rob and his band of brothers led us off again with demonstrations of exemplary group riding, although it was a little difficult to see further than a few bikes ahead through the mist.

Once parked, we were given an excellent presentation of the history of the place, by one of our Scottish Brethren, along with an explanation

of the transition of ownership of the Orkney Islands.

Apparently, it as a result of Christian 1st of Norway failing to pay the dowry when his daughter Margaret married James III of Scotland... makes alimony payments pale into insignificance.

Then, a dog walker, impressed by the turnout and our hearing the group objectives for the ride, donated £40 ... out of the blue.

Just when we thought it was time to get a few photos and make our way home, the piper arrived.

The ride home started with being escorted away by a piper and a sword bearer... really!!!



All videos will be posted on the various FaceBook pages as well in a few days, but hopefully this picture provides a two-dimensional sample, but you really need the sound and vision.

The Journey home was now underway, with only around 750 miles to go, via East Kilbride in Glasgow for our last overnight stop.

However, not long after we left John O'Groats it seems a monsoon went astray and dropped 6 years' worth of rain (Well ... there or thereabouts) on our weary band all the way to Glasgow. So much was our visibility impaired – some of us missed the exit ramp and had an impromptu tour of Glasgow to get back to the hotel.

< Sigh >

The travel-weary band gathered into small groups around the dining area for the evening meal, and as usual we were asked about our travels.

The usual "Good Natured Banter" returned to my inability to get helmet and gloves sorted



Those Presidents sufficiently close by and able to be rounded up, were honoured to have their photo taken with the piper, and words cannot convey the emotions of the Big Riders, with the welcome and hospitality from all the Chapters, but our Scottish Brethren surpassed even that; many, many thanks to everyone.



out in less than ten minutes. Fortunately, the arrival of a very short haired waitress came to my rescue, when one of our Shires Brethren asked her (very politely) if she was a Sinead O'Connor fan (shaved head). She answered that she was raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, so with the Shires President (Jamie Osborn) on the charge, we had a whip round and handed over £70. Thankfully, the banter then shifted away from me to Jamie, in that he only did it to get a photo with her.

A timely reminder that we are not the only people in the world fund-raising, and Charity works both ways.

It was with all this behind us that a reduced group departed Glasgow at 07:00 on Sunday 22nd to make the final dash back to Chandlers Ford – just under 450 miles.

However, a glorious sight welcomed the depleted group at Castle Donington Services. A “Grumpy” man in a bowler hat, some excellent hot homemade provisions under a gazebo ...



... with fruit and carrot cake to die for.

Finally, after the separation of the Chapters, dissipation due to fatigue, illness, emergencies and breakdowns, those living closest to Chandlers Ford were escorted from Chieveley Services back to Kings Court Masonic Centre in Chandlers Ford.

Back home at last, all of the Big Riders of the Southern, Shires and Stonecutters Chapters of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers would like to thank each and every one of all our fabulous Brothers, their friends and their families, as well as the

sponsors and donors for their support, generosity and hospitality on every inch of our ride.

The whole journey and the inclement weather took its toll on the group:

~ One saddlebag had to be discarded due to a minor collision.

~ One member had to go to hospital overnight as a result of fatigue and dehydration but was back with us in the morning to continue the ride; they make them hardy in Yorkshire.

~ Another Brother fell foul of a diesel spill on an uphill hairpin... both bike and rider quickly recovered to continue the ride.

~ One rider had to go home without stopping at Glasgow – about a 20 hour day.

~ Another brother was knocked off his bike, but the local Widows Sons friendship and fraternal care was there to look after him.

~ Gear was hung in wardrobes, dripping with water when waterproofs were overwhelmed.

Although still very much a work in progress, The Southern, The Shires and The Stonecutters Chapters are pleased to report that we expect the Grand Totals for the ride to reach in excess of £20,000

When looking for a strapline for this article, I shared my thoughts with Ninja PGM before the off, who said:

“Well, The Widows Sons combines my two passions ... Freemasonry and Motorcycling” I couldn't have put it better.



The Chicken Run UK Tour

11 - 25 JUNE 2022

One film about chickens and 5 bikers that want to spend two painful weeks' motorcycling and raising lots of money for charity has led to the re-birth of "The Chicken Run UK Tour".

5 brave bikers are to set off on a motorcycle ride of some 3500 miles on a UK tour in just 14 days to raise money for their two favourite charities.

The Children's Hospice South West based in Fremington, North Devon. Little Bridge House, the only children's hospice in the South West, offers sick children and their families respite and relaxation, friendship and a sense of community, a sharing in the 24 hour care and then support for the whole family into bereavement.

The second is St Lukes Hospice based in Plymouth. St Luke's Hospice Plymouth is an independent charity providing specialist advice and support to people with progressive life-limiting illnesses in Plymouth, South West Devon and East Cornwall. We believe that everyone deserves quality end of life care, no matter where. We work with our community, in partnership with others, to achieve dignity, comfort and choice for people affected by life-limiting illnesses through delivering and influencing exceptional care. Our vision is a community where no person has to die alone, in pain or distress. In order to continue our vital work, we need to raise £7.8 million each and every year. Without your support this would not be possible.

The bikers (who are also members of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association) want "The Chicken Run" to raise as much as humanly possible for the two charities. They are appealing to local and national businesses for sponsorship, motorbike shops for help with gear and spares. Hospitality services to help with a bed for the night at the end of each day/leg.

For a registration fee of only £10 per bike (includes pillion) they will be inviting bikers from all over the country to join them on each daily leg. Bikes of every shape and size are welcome, the pace will be steady or they'd lose their feathers.

The Chicken Run UK Tour departs Barnstaple on Saturday 11th June 2022 at 9am for Leg One down to Lands End and back up to Exeter. The bikers would like local bikers to join them for a spectacular day out, so why not register now as it is on a first come first serve bases. Birdseed will be available for all chickens.

This event is being held in June of next year but we would like to get the word out asap if possible please. It is a ride of some 3500 miles covering the circumference of the UK anti-clockwise. The 5 main riders doing the whole run are all Brothers from the "Pilgrims Chapter" Devon as follows;

Bro Phil Jones (Nails - VP), Bro Simon Windsor (Lurch - Secretary), Bro Steve Robertson (Robbo - Almoner), Bro Damon Hicks (Hilton - RC1), Bro Kelvyn Bond (Alvin - RC2)

There are 15 daily legs, which are open to all riders, but especially Widows Sons Brothers.

Email: thechickenrun4@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 07368 374493

Mobile: 07368 374493

FaceBook: www.facebook.com/The-Chicken-Run-UK-Tour-2022



RIDE CAST



The  episode

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West Kent Chapter Roundup

The President along with members of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association West Kent Chapter (WSWK), are delighted to present the Chairman of SERV Kent and Mrs Jean McNally with a donation of £400 to SERV Kent, in memory of Worshipful Bro. Mike McNally who sadly passed to the Grand Lodge above in December 2020. Mike dedicated much of his time to supporting SERV Kent, was a founder member of WSWK, and a truly respected brother among Masons. He is sorely missed by all who knew him!

On the 10th July the Pastoral Care Team of the Province of West Kent organised another successful PSA testing event, with members of Widows Sons West Kent taking over 300 blood samples from Dartford Masonic Centre to the laboratory in Kings Cross London. The organisers thanked the WS in their quarterly newsletter.



Stephen Mulvaney
(aka *Mulvers*)
Acting President
West Kent Chapter

Worcestershire Chapter Roundup

The outlook was definitely wet for the new Worcestershire Chapter of Widows Sons inaugural rideout, but would that dampen the enthusiasm – absolutely not! We talk to Andy “Monte” Philpott, the founding president. (“Monte”, after his favourite cigar he says!)

The new Worcestershire Chapter of Widows Sons was formed in March 2021, but due to Covid restrictions, any rideouts were of course delayed, which meant our first official event was 4th July 2021. We had 13 founding members, and by coincidence there are 13 masonic meeting places in Worcestershire, so it was fitting that our first ride visited each one of those locations, recording the event with a photo of the bikers and the hall, proudly displaying our new banner.



Starting off at Tenbury, the local Riverside Café opened up especially at 8am for us, for sustenance (and initial dry out!) for the long day's riding. We started off with 14 bikes, (with plans for others to join us along the way) and after the safety briefing and first photo opportunity, headed onto the open road and hills towards Malvern, followed by Evesham, Worcester and Bromsgrove School – after which we had the opportunity after around 100 miles for some of the smaller bikes to have a top up!

It was now around noon, we were up to 16 bikes and the weather up to now had been a mixture of intermittent heavy drizzle and sun, but the clouds were ominously gathering as we made our way towards Redditch. One of the aims of the Widows Sons is to raise

the awareness of freemasonry – which certainly happened as we were stopped here by someone asking how to join! At which point, yes, boy did it rain! Travelling on towards Kings Heath was pretty painful for those with open helmets as it was coming down like stair rods - and most of us found just how waterproof (or not) our jackets and trousers were! Knowing that a warm drink and warm welcome was waiting for us at Northfield, our 9th stop, we quickly headed out in the deluge and met the very welcoming committee for a well earned rest, cup of tea and pleasant surprise of stickies and cake! Our grateful thanks to Paul Wong, Chris Philips and the hall committee for putting on a most welcome stop. We now numbered 19, around 2.30pm and thankfully the rain had started to diminish so we headed off once again having drip dried, to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Kidderminster. At this point I must also say a big thank you to the volunteers who came out to video and photo us at various locations, mostly in the rain! - David Emery, Adam Lewis, Richard Weston and Mike Dykes, who have contributed to this article and excellent video memorial of the day....

Our penultimate stop saw us rolling up at Stourport, where we had a tour of the fantastic new temple and facilities, before heading off for our final 13th meeting place at the Lenchford Inn in Shrawley. We arrived around 4.30pm, amazingly keeping to the schedule originally planned, with all 19 bikes and bikers intact – having travelled around 144 miles in around 8 hours.

The original plan was for us to have a family event at the Lenchford, and to present our newly received chapter and Widows Sons patches

to those eligible, but of course covid rules meant this was not possible at this time. One for a future event.





All in all, a most enjoyable day out – as the saying goes, there is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing, which thankfully being experienced bikers we (mostly) all had dressed in the right gear. My thanks go to our founding Secretary Martin Lawrence, who planned the route and the whole event, which was a complete success. With the blessing and support of our PGM, and with help from our supporting West Midlands Chapter, our new Worcestershire Charter was awarded on the 31st March 2021.

a full program of events, charity rides and get togethers during the remainder of the year, and we just hope for it occasionally to be fine weather!"

For those not yet in Masonry, we have our Worcestershire Motorcycling lodge – Lodge of Progress No. 9893, (for which Andy is also currently Worshipful Master) which is regarded as complementary to the Widows Sons and a route to being made a Master Mason - and then eligible for full membership of the Sons.



Andy continues – “My thanks to the hard work and perseverance of our founding secretary, Martin “Deuce” Lawrence and Vice president, Phil “Scooterboy” Underhill, in getting the Chapter up and running in these difficult times; and for our continuing expansion - as to date we have now doubled to almost 30 members which is absolutely fantastic.... For our partners and for those who are not yet Master Masons, we have our association – the Worcestershire Pear Drops, whose members are also eligible to take part in all our events, of which we have

If you are interested in becoming a member, please email us at wsworcs@gmail.com and we will send you an application form. Membership is only £20 per annum - enjoy organised rides out, social events, good company and raising money for worthy causes!

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

The Mad Panic Rally

Sometimes in life you just have to take a gamble and hope that everything works out all right, and following a conversation between myself, W. Bro Graham Dockrill (secretary of Durham WS) and Bro. Andy Hoggy Bridger it was decided to gamble with the continuation of COVID restrictions, and put on a rally anyway.

A venue was selected, bands booked, posters and flyers sent out, and then we nervously sat and hoped the ticket sales would commence, and they did.

I think a lot of people are still very nervous about being in large groups of people and due to the date of the rally in August members were already heading off on holiday with family. Despite that, we all enjoyed a weekend in great company with good bands playing and a scrumptious hog roast on the Saturday evening. Finally although the event was not about raising money for charity, we were still able to raise a £1250 which was donated to Northumbria Blood Bikes

A special mention must go to Breakdown Ben from Wyvern Chapter who donated two wonderful prizes, a Widows Sons leather seat, and a leather bound hip flask, which we auctioned at the event raising £230. Also the

hard work and efforts of Andy Hoggy Bridger for leading the ride out on Saturday, and to W. Bro Graham Dockrill, who assisted by W. Bro Andy Reed manned the entrance to welcome Brethren to the rally, sold raffle tickets on both nights and generally kept the event running smoothly "thanks Graham"

A question that has been raised since the rally is, why do we only have one rally per year? And this is something we should look into, as the more opportunities we have to get together the better, so who knows, the "Mad Panic Rally" may become a regular event for more of us to enjoy



W. Bro Peter Younger
National Chairman
WSMBA UK



THE MAD PANIC RALLY FRIDAY 6TH August-Sunday 8th August

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

A weekend of Beer, bands and Brotherhood

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Live DJ playing choons

Live music from

The Swamp Hoppers & The Boneshakers

Saturday

Live DJ playing more choons

Live music from

The Whole Hogg The Sharks



SATURDAY NIGHT, IS HOG ROAST NIGHT

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Tickets £20 per head purchased via paypal at madpanicrally@gmail.com please select "pay a friend" when ordering tickets. Ride out on the Saturday, through beautiful County Durham



East Mids Chapter Roundup

We were saddened to learn that Ewan Robinson, founder member and at one time Almoner of East Midlands Chapter passed away in July. In accordance with his wishes we arranged to provide a motorcycle escort. 22 bikes attended from East Midlands, West Midlands, Beda & Derbyshire Motorcycle Lodge where Ewan was the Senior Warden.

On a happier note two new members were patched, congratulations Stu & Paul.



Also, two of our associate members, Dennis Eldred & Tim Eardley were initiated into Freemasonry at Moot Hall, Wirksworth, Derbyshire. A good number of Widows Sons attended the double, double ceremony and are pictured below with the Assistant PGM, himself a biker and regular attendee of our breakfast meetings. Dennis & Tim are now looking forward to becoming Master Masons and fully patched Widows Sons members.



Since the end of lock down we have started to get about a bit with rides to Buxton, Stoney Cove, The Ace Café and a tour of Grand Lodge. A good number of us went up to the Mad Panic Rally and were treated to a fantastic weekend with Durham being great hosts.



Our Charity work is ongoing, and we continue to support Matty and his family. The long-planned helicopter ride came to fruition. Matty and his family had a great time although mum, Allison was very nervous of getting in the helicopter, but she put her fears to one side and had a brilliant time. The Widows Sons again rallied and provided enough bikes to spell out Matty and a square and compass on Matty's school playing field.

Our President – Grumpy

Well, he has something to be Grumpy about. Recently Grumpy went into hospital to have his ankle re-pinned after the first two attempts were not quite right. So, let's hope it is third time lucky and this time all is well. I am sure he will be at least able to hobble about for his President's Weekend



starting 17th September at the Greyhound in Warslow, Derbyshire. Get in touch if you fancy joining him. It was a fantastic weekend last year and promises to

be even better this year.

W. Bro Richard Wheelhouse
(aka *Tricky*)
Vice President
East Midlands Chapter



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Cheshire Chapter Roundup

Hello and salutations from the Cheshire Widows Sons MBA.

It's been great to catch-up with our brethren from other areas recently. We had a rather wet ride to watch Matty Howard making memories ride in a helicopter, in the process of meeting brothers from other regions and particularly Grumpy. What a great cause he and the East Midlands coordinated. We met up with the Southern, Stonecutter & Shires ride to John O'Groats and return in 4 days for the Hampshire & IoW Air Ambulance. Fantastic achievement but also good to catch with the North West and North Wales groups at the same time.

We are fortunate to still be recruiting and Patching new members but also getting the kids involved. We presented 2 new Bad Pennies with their BP patches and I don't know who was happier, the kids or their dad! One of the ladies even did a charity cake bake raising £110. Cake and bikers go together, who would have thought?

Another item of food related news: The monthly breakfast meets are proving as popular as ever. This is something we continue throughout the year, pandemic permitting. I'm not sure if it the get together or the chance for a big breakfast that is the attraction.

Ride safe brothers and keep the shiny side up.

W. Bro Pete Wright
(aka *Cridosi*)
President
Cheshire Chapter

Visit to Gibraltar by WSMBA Faro, Portugal brothers

As soon as the COVID 19 travel restrictions were lifted we wasted no time and managed to arrange a visit to Gibraltar from the sister chapter members in Portugal. We took advantage of the fact that our brothers from Portugal had planned their own 6-day tour of southern Spain. Whilst many of those taking part in this tour would depart Faro on 1st June 2021, several of the members agreed to depart a day earlier to visit Gibraltar and for the first time get together with the Gibraltar Chapter members.

The members of the Gibraltar Chapter prepared a welcoming which consisted of an informative tour of 'The Rock', all of its touristic sites and a visit to the 'Gibraltar Masonic Institute' (GMI).



Wbro. Ronald Ignacio PM was instrumental in making the arrangements by providing access to all upper rock tourist sites, including Saint Michael's Cave and the new and impressive Sky Walk. This allowed our visitors to get an insight on the history of Gibraltar.

Gibraltar's Skywalk offers breath-taking 360° views spanning three countries and two continents and links to other sites within the Gibraltar Nature Reserve. This includes the thrilling Windsor Suspension Bridge and the famous Apes' Den via a series of walking trails.

At the GMI, the visiting members were presented by WBro. Anthony Morillo PM with

the History of the Lodge of St. John no 115 (EC).



Historian and author, WBro. Keith Sheriff PM, personally presented this at the lodge in our last meeting in May and unknowingly at the time, the Portugal Chapter was to be chartered only weeks later on St. John's Day

A donation of €150 by our Portuguese brethren was received directly from fund raising; this was well received by WSMBA Gibraltar Chapter President Bro Darren Laguea.

Tour of Portugal & Spain

Sadly, our intended trip to Portugal to attend the Faro Rally 2021 was once again cancelled this year; however as an alternative it was decided to tour both Portugal and Spain.

A total of 13 riders took part, comprising of our membership and several non-members who showed an interest in joining us.

Day 1 of 4: Gibraltar to Faro, Portugal

The ride set us off from Gibraltar towards Faro where we spent our first night and enjoyed both lunch and dinner at 2 great restaurants.

Day 2 of 4: Faro to Elvas, Portugal

We took the roads less travelled. As we drove through testing and truly rustic, rural roads, we were greeted by deep crimson and magenta



meeting with the Widows Sons SE Chapter (Portuguese Members) who were touring Spain. The ride to lunch was the opposite of our previous day; this was of great relief to the majority of brothers especially given passage of time since they did something similar. Long straight roads with few smooth curves, that we could perfectly manage, this was the ideal change we needed to arrive at our meeting point (Mirador Masatrigo) on time.

flowers, pale yellow butterflies, and faint smells of citrus, eucalyptus and pine from the orchards and forests. Priceless to ride through this on a hot summer day!

We passed villages with more than the necessary 'stop' signs on inclined roads, villages with larger than average speed bumps, with hundreds of metres of road lined with traffic lights on both their entrance and exit, both solar and cork farms, and a lake with artificial beaches!

We rode near hair pin bendy roads up and down mountains that required aggressive counter steering and leaning to use as much of the range of tyre thread as possible!

Day 3 of 4: Elvas to Cordoba, Spain

It was an early departure towards Cordoba where we had previously arranged a lunch

Day 4 of 4: Cordoba to Gibraltar, Home

We met at 0800 for an early breakfast at the main square in beautiful Cordoba, although due to Covid-19 restrictions almost everything around was closed. Finally, after having found a hotel serving breakfast with an outside patio open to non-residents, we enjoyed our breakfast and then set off on our journey back home.

We rode out of Cordoba onto the motorway that took us towards and through the beautiful town of Ronda. We had a fantastic lunch in Jimena de la Frontera, Cadiz, a memorable end to a fantastic trip.

As part of an initiative towards Fundraising, the WSMBA members were able to raise over £400 for our charity box on this tour.



Supporting local Fraternity

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

A total of 4 members were able to attend this meeting but, whilst we would have hoped to have more members attend, we still faced the limitations of COVID-19 and the decision of the Scottish District limitations to lodge attendance until September 2021.

Attending for the first time we simply didn't know what to expect. Even with the support of the DGM we still needed to ensure we were welcomed openly by all freemasons.

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

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

Fund raising & Charity

During the past months our members have been working towards being able to support local charity foundations. Fundraising has been limited because of the Covid-19 Pandemic limitations imposed on us all; day riding or touring has been totally restive, meaning our opportunities to fundraise as a group have been limited.

Having limited membership and resources it was decided to approach several local businesses within the local community and ask for their help in raising funds for charity.

As it was the first time that the WSMBA Gibraltar Chapter was going to directly support local charities, it was deemed necessary to carry



out a ballot to decide what charities would be supported.

The two chosen charities voted by the members were: Clubhouse Gibraltar and the EV Foundation. Clubhouse Gibraltar is a work-based programme where individuals with a history of mental illness can develop to their full potential.



The EV Foundation is a Gibraltar registered charity (No. 326). It focuses on supporting vulnerable, poverty-stricken individuals and families locally. Their aim is to build up families and individuals so that they can be healthy, safe, happy and successful in life.

Bro Darren Laguea
President
Gibraltar Chapter

Widows Sons Portugal

Dear Bros,

It is with great pride that we announce Portugal is since 24th of June (St. John's day in Portugal), a WSMBA Chapter, for which we are very grateful to the WSSE and our President Gregory Kirby, for all the support and trust in the brothers responsible for this Chapter in Portugal (José Santos and Alexandre Cebrian Valente), as well as the Dear And Respectable Brother Robert S. Levitt - Grand Inspector Portugal (from UGLE), for which we invite all our dear WSMBA Brothers, to visit us and get in touch with us whenever they fell that way, as it is an honor for us to be part of this fraternity's greatest union chain.

Please visit us:

www.wsmba.pt

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

Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association

Alexandre Cebrian Valente



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Next issue

The Autumn issue of **THE Son** will be published on 1st December 2021

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) for the next issue to the Editor by email to: wsmбанews@gmail.com before **Wednesday 17th November**

Please all be safe, ride safe and keep well.



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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>



THE Son