

THE Son



Issue 9
Spring 2023



Welcome to the first edition of the Son for 2023.

Thank you for re-electing me for a second term as Chairman. I am honoured to be representing the Association, which I firmly believe to be an asset to Freemasonry. We are the only Association that is

sporting the Square & Compasses to the world at large on a regular basis.

Here goes anyway:

With the aftermath of Covid now more manageable there appears to be more optimism to support events and rides and am expecting this year to be our most active to date. And we have already got off to an excellent start.

The Big Ride is back on the Agenda 10th-13th August 2023 with Mike Field reaching out to the Chapters to rendezvous along their route for a brew or to accompany them part of the way. I am sure we will want to get behind them as they are supporting Hampshire Air Ambulance. The route is from Hampshire to John O'Groats going up one side of the country and coming back down the other.

The National Rally organisers, Parisi, Ridings and Linc Imps, are in full swing and doors open from Friday 28 Jul 2023 10:00 AM to Sunday 30 Jul 2023 6:00 PM at Hull Ionians Rugby Club, HU15 1HX. Have you got your tickets?

Our first Widows Sons Presidents Ball hosted by East Kent Chapter in Maidstone 28th January led by Andy Pilbeam and Bryan Humphrey, in support of the Lifelites Platinum Partner Appeal was a roaring success, raising £2000 towards our goal of £20,000. (Half of which has already been handed over on the steps of Freemasons

Hall). Banger was so impressed with the Ball that he has pledged Icenii will host the next one and already their team are working on a venue off the A1. Details to follow.

Two more events of a personal endurance nature to flag up: Jamie "Ozzy" Osborn, President of Stonecutters, is undertaking the 3 Peaks Challenge to raise funds for MCF Wiltshire festival, Wallace & Gromit Grand Appeal & Looseheadz Charity. You can find a link by searching Just Giving (Crowdfunding to Complete The 3 Peaks Challenge in 24hours to raise money for the MCF Wiltshire festival, Wallace & Gromit Grand Appeal & Looseheadz Charity on JustGiving). And not to be outdone on the physical hardcore test Jim "Royal" Hayward has been entered into the Croyde Ocean Triathlon on the 2nd July, raising funds for Lifelites. Am sure we wish them both every success for their worthy causes. Anything else out there let the news team know news@wsmba.uk.

We also have five more Chapters being formed as we stride towards our goal of one Chapter per Province. The newbies are being drawn from a lot of experienced members so their futures are certain. John Perridge "Grumpy" is leading Merlin/Derby, Richard Wheelhouse, "Tricky", is leading Nottinghamshire and John Torley, "Habibi" completing the breakup of East Mids with Leicester & Rutland. Added to which we have Tony Brookes aka "Spook" for Gloucestershire pulling a team together under the stewardship of Harry Blinston VC South and Jim Hayward President Wyvern, otherwise known as "Riff" and "Royal". Northamptonshire, under the stewardship of Mike Vokes, "Elmer", are well established to cross the line as well. Also in the mix is Hertfordshire with Banger and Spencer working on the numbers to start the ball rolling. The PGM of Hertfordshire, V. W. Bro. Neil Connolly has already given his blessing to what he considers to be a very worthy Association. If the Dutch Chapter is anything to go by then Herts will be awesome too. There are 41 Provinces in

England & Wales so not many more to be formed to complete the mission. I will publish the list of Provinces missing so that we can start to think about how to get them up and running. The Back Office can help if there is no sponsoring Chapter nearby.

The PGB will be voting on the Chapters to be Chartered at the AGM in Derby on Saturday 25th February, so by the time you read this edition of the Son the news should be out that those being voted in will receive their signed Charters at the

National Rally in Hull on Saturday 29th July 2023. Did I mention rally tickets?

As we go to press five more Chapters have donated to Lifelites which will bring us close to £15,000 raised to date. The campaign was launched 22nd April 2022 with a pledge of £20,000 over four years. Can we do it in one year brethren? It would certainly be a statement of intent if we did. If your Chapter is still collecting funds the donation is to the Relief Chest E1072 Account name: The Grand Charity, Sort Code: 18-00-02, Account Number: 02585235, Reference Chapter Name. Whatever your Chapter can donate

will help us get there. Give according to your means being a Masonic Principle.

We all get a copy of the First Risings from UGLE and you may have noticed the reference to Holy Royal Arch, (HRA). Long considered the completion of the Master Mason ceremony. In light of the drive by our Masonic Rulers in the Craft to promote the HRA, those amongst us have been buying the Triple Tau lapel pins, and the initial batch has sold out. If there is further demand, I am happy to place another order and this time a version to take a stud? I am proposing that we adopt this as an alternative badge for those qualified to wear it, as one would

demonstrate membership by wearing the HRA jewel in a craft lodge. I see this as progress for the Association and draws us closer to UGLE. As a progressive Association we must look to the future and if Masonry is encouraging the members to complete their masonic journey, we can demonstrate that we are playing our part

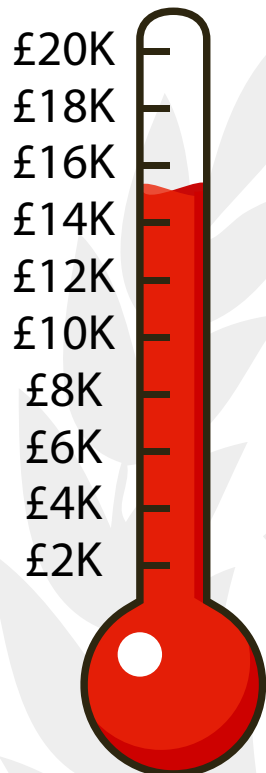


too. We have already rescued a couple of HRA Chapters as well as Lodges. Only Craft and the HRA are administered by UGLE. The rest is administered by other Masonic Bodies.

Somewhere in this edition will probably be a reminder from the IT Guru Martin Ward, that the Association has an IT package in place to have us all using the CHAPTERNAME.wsmba.uk as a url and five emails accordingly set as President@CHAPTERNAME.wsmba.uk; secretary@CHAPTERNAME.wsmba.uk etc. If your Chapter has not adopted it, please seriously consider it. Nothing needs to change your end as any existing URL's and email addresses can be pointed at or forwarded to. It is very simple and is included in your annual remittance along with the BMF cover. So why pay extra elsewhere. Plus it makes it easy for every chapter to email events to the secretary@CHAPTERNAME.wsmba.uk without having to think what their address is.

Talking of the BMF, thank you for the payments and we now have in place the Public Liability Insurance to cover us at events in the UK. And our BMF discount code for 2023 is CLB23CHZ.

And we also have a page on Facebook where members of the WSMBa can buy and sell Widows Sons, buy and sell pages. UK I Facebook. Bikes, parts, regalia; its all on there.



I have rambled on a bit and am sure I have missed a lot out, but one thing I am keen on is ideas and if there is a pet project or an initiative that can further our aims as a national association then please contact me directly on chairman@wsmba.uk or 07860 802935. In the meantime please keep safe out there on the roads and do your best to show us in the best light possible at all times as we are the only Masonic Association with a badge on our chest!

W. Bro Gregory Kirby

National Chairman



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.



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.

We have recently 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!

Bikesure are glad to provide up to 25% discount on all quotes!

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

A. 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

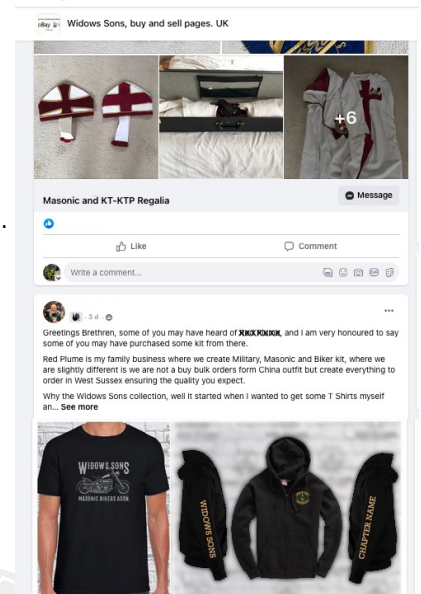
The only criteria to join is to be a Widows Son located in the UK & Ireland.

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>



West Midlands Chapter say farewell to “Martini”

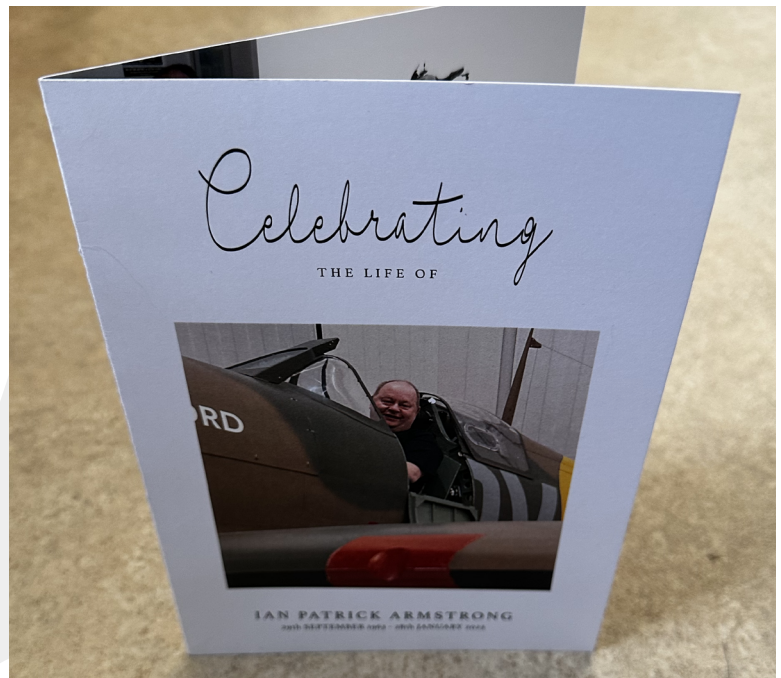
Ian Patrick Armstrong

Wednesday 8th February dawned very cold and with a heavy frost, but that didn't stop West Midlands Chapter members, along with East Midlands and other motorcycling friends getting their bikes out of storage and braving the freezing temperatures to say a fond farewell to our dear friend and Brother, Ian “Martini” Armstrong.

Ian was a giant of a man, not only in stature but in the respect and love all the Brethren had for him. He would share his time, love, food and one time, even his painkillers if there was need and he could help.

Ian fought Pancreatic Cancer bravely, outliving his initial prognosis by nearly 3 years - and was still riding up until a few months ago - leading the West Mids Chapter on a tour of a Vulcan Bomber.

The Chapter had previously held a small token of remembrance at the Masonic Garden of the NMA.



In loving memory of Ian “Martini” Armstrong

29th September 1963

- 28th January 2023





Stonecutters Chapter Roundup

It has been a weather enforced, quiet winter for the Stonecutters in Wiltshire. In November, we visited the White Horse Lodge, No 2227 in Westbury to present Phillip Bullock, PPGrM of Wiltshire and trustee of the Loganberry Trust, £500. On 9th December, the Stonecutters and their partners attended a Christmas Meal at Salisbury Masonic Hall. A fine night was had by all while raising money to support Spurgeons, The Children's Charity.



On 11th December, members of the Stonecutters travelled to Trowbridge Cadet Centre to meet our partners from Juno Company, Wiltshire Army Cadet Force for our first Toy Run. The day also provided the cadets an opportunity to complete their "Cadets in the Community" Syllabus. We delivered a Transit sized van full of toys to Julia's House Children's Hospice in Devizes. We have now commenced our planning for a 2023 Easter Egg Run and Christmas Toy Run as a result of this day and have established two new relationships to deepen.

Christmas and New Year was very quiet. Unfortunately the Great Architect deemed it appropriate to ensure that the weather and riding



conditions would force the cancellation of our New Years Eve Ride; however, the Great Architect blinked and with the speed of a WhatsApp message, the Stonecutters assembled for their First Ride of 2023.

Our social calendar has ramped back up, with our most recent Natter Night in February seeing us patch in five new Widows Sons, with a further patching in the very near future. We also meet for our Quiz Night on the last Friday of each month - our most recent raised a whopping £250 for charity, despite numerically being "fairly quiet!"



The Stonecutters offer their congratulations and best wishes to our President, Jamie "Ozzie" Osborn and partner Sadie on the birth of their first child, Albie. Whilst in hospital with Sadie and Albie, Ozzie finalised his idea for his own charitable fundraising for the year. He will be completing the National Three Peaks Challenge in late June to raise money for Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal, Looseheadz Charity and MCF Wiltshire Festival. If any reader wishes to donate to these great causes, they can at https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/3-peaks-2023?utm_term=4xW4wdV7yQ

Thankfully, as I hurriedly type, the WhatsApp group has just sprung to life, there is a break in the weather and there is a ride on...

THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE



Worcestershire Chapter Update

Our Chapter continues to grow nicely, especially with our relationship with the Worcestershire bikers lodge (Lodge of Progress) and vice versa – both organisations feeding candidates to each other - and we supported a recent initiation for one of our pear drops associate members, along with a double second in the Lodge of Progress. The Chapter is now standing at around 34 members.

Our rideouts on the 2nd Sunday of the month have

continued as much as possible throughout the winter, as we continue to support various charity events around our region.



Following a fundraising at our Christmas event, we recently took the opportunity to visit the Worcester Dementia Cafe at Worcester Sixways on our bikes, talking to its members, and to present a cheque. The Chapter is raising funds for the Worcester Warriors Foundation, in particular the Dementia Café.



Pictured are members of the dementia group, its helpers and the Chapter members. The cheque was presented on behalf of the Worcestershire Chapter by its president Andy Philpott (Monte) to Izzy Brick, the Adapted Sports Coach at the Foundation

Cheshire Chapter Roundup

Well after what seemed like an eternity, we welcomed Bro. Roy Davies into Freemasonry. Roy's progress was hampered by the dreaded lurgy plus a back log of folks also wishing to progress in his lodge. Roy has been a Bad Penney for some time and cannot wait until we patch him into Cheshire Widows Sons MBA. Hopefully we will carry this out at the next breakfast meeting due to be held later this month.

Below is a picture of Roy (fifth from left) behind his Lodge Worshipful Master seated. Surround by his brothers from the CWSMBA. Apart from the excellent raising by

all, Lodge brethren and Roy, we were entertained by W.Bro Mike Dakin (fourth from right) with an masterly presentation of the Walking Charge. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all present and we can recommend making the effort to watch it if it is ever carried out in your area.



Lincs Imps Chapter Roundup

We now have 18 WS patched members and 8 cornerstones and following our AGM we have members in all roles for the running of the chapter.

We have been visitors to the Lodges of 2 newly raised members and much discussion resulted due to our wearing of our cuts at the festive boards, all positive and a number of enquires as a result.

We have a number of new members who attended the branding in Scotland at the beginning of last year, and are looking forward to attending this year in March.

A number of us attended the national rally and had a great time meeting the other Chapters and generally just having fun.

We have been arranging this year's ride out programme with our new Road Captain and will be visiting on mass to each members Lodge.

We have met up with our neighbouring Chapters with regards to the National Rally and ensured our passports are in order for us to cross the Humber bridge, so all good there.

We tested out the use of these by visiting Scarborough and meeting up with a few members of the other chapter, needless to say one of our members got lost in Scarborough, thank goodness for the native chapter who delivered him safely to us, he was some 15 miles away in a different direction lol

It was a day of gremlins, one bike had permanent brake light trouble, 2 bikes would not start at different times, one had coolant troubles and another had problems with the headlight which seem to have righted themselves once we got back into Lincolnshire, weird.

Christmas dinner was well attended, and we are looking forward to better things this next year.

BMF Discount Code 2023

From the guys at BMF!



The club discount code for 2023 is
CLB23CHZ

Wyvern Chapter Roundup

December was a busy month with many a star lining up to be photographed with a Wyvern:

Tracey Pope and Frank Bruno, Mike Tindall and 'Smiffy'. December Church saw two new members



patched into Wyvern Chapter: Simon 'Sid' Yule joins us from the Province of Gloucestershire and Brett Rogers joins us from Taunton in the Province of Somerset.



One of our very own Widows Sons, W.Bro Pete Russell (on the right), was appointed as Provincial Coordinator for the Somerset Masonic Friendship Association in November and is due to be honoured as Provincial Grand Pursuivant for Somerset in April 2023.

W.Bro Harry 'Riff' Blinston has also been honoured to be reappointed as Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies for a second year.

Wyvern Chapter held a Christmas party at Brent House, on 7th January, thanks to Brian 'Pitstop' Horn. He arranged for us to have a segregated area where we could do Wyvern business and not interfere with the general public. We had a tremendous turn out, with partners and kids all

joining in. Apart from having the best carvery in the west and great company, we managed to present Mick Blay with his second and third set of patches, to recognise his commitment to Wyvern Chapter. Bear in mind that he lives in Portsmouth!



We also generated over £400 for our charity fund.

Strengthening the bond between Wyvern and Pilgrims. Two members of Pilgrims have been exalted into Inkerman Chapter in Weston-Super-Mare

Companion Simon 'Lurch' Windsor was exalted in November 2022 and Companion Damon 'Hilton' Hicks (Middle) was exalted in January 2023 whilst Inkerman Chapter No.1222

were very proud to host a Provincial Fraternal Visit, led by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Ray Guthrie. Both Companions are members of the Widows Sons MBA, Pilgrims Chapter.



The Exaltation was well supported by other members from Somerset (Wyvern), Devon (Pilgrims) and our, soon to be, newly constituted MBA Chapter in Gloucestershire.

The Bad news

A message from Jim 'Royal' Hayward, President, Wyvern Chapter WSMBA.

"It is with deep sadness that I have to make you all aware that we lost one of our own, with the news of Brother Tracey Pope's passing.

Patched in October last year at RTTW, Tracey became a part of the Wyvern family and soon established himself amongst his fellow Brothers in his new venture with the Widows Sons. A lovely gentlemen with a cracking sense of humour and always up for a pint with his friends. It was an honour to present him his Wyvern patch after his hard work and commitment to joining us over many months.

On behalf of all of us in Wyvern chapter, we raised a toast to Tracey in his memory, and have his family and friends at the forefront of our minds. Until we meet again on Heavens highway, ride free brother.

RIP Tracey Pope"

The family posted this message on Facebook.

"We are absolutely overwhelmed by the messages, flowers, offers of support and tributes we have had over the past devastating week We all knew Trace was so very special



but knowing he was so well thought of by so many is a great comfort, he would have been stunned, so thank you all, we very much appreciate every one of you. We can now post details of funeral arrangements which will be held on Friday 3rd February at 11.30 am at Gloucester Crematorium. We hope that you will join us at the Crematorium and afterwards at Wotton Hall Club, Barnwood Road for refreshments and to raise a glass. We have been asked about flowers and as Trace was a keen charity supporter in lieu of flowers, donations to Gloucester feed the hungry would be much appreciated.”

31 Wyverns and Pilgrims, and a member of Southern Chapter, rode up to Gloucester to provide an escort for the hearse and to pay respects to Tracey and the family. Before we formed up behind the hearse, members of the family came and shook hands with all of us, saying how grateful they were for our presence and how much it meant to them.

The Family posted this message on Facebook after the funeral “We would like to say a massive heartfelt thank you to everyone for the fantastic send-off you all gave Tracey Pope yesterday. The hundreds of messages of support has been absolutely overwhelming. Special thanks to Mike Collins for organising the wonderful motorbike escort, Trace would have loved it. Tony Bowden for the beautiful orders of service, but most of all for all that came and gave Trace the day he deserved, he

would have been very touched. The sight and sound of the bikes and the hundreds of friends and family waiting for him is one we will never forget and are truly grateful for. A wonderful day for our very special man.”

Mike Collins (on the right) was best mates with Tracey for more than 30 years and joined Wyvern at the same time. Thank you Mike for being such a good friend to Tracey and inviting the Widows Sons to escort Tracey on his final journey.

And finally!

On the forming of Wyvern Chapter, a promise was given to the PGB that from this Chapter, which covered three Masonic Province (Somerset, Gloucestershire & Bristol) another would be formed when the time was right. That promise is being held and a new Chapter is being formed, details of which has now been sent to the PGB to be voted on at the next Presidents Conference. The new Chapter will cover Gloucestershire and Bristol (due to its proximity to Glos and its size) and has 10 founding members. Unfortunately, one founding member was called to the Grand Lodge above early in the New Year.

The name of the Chapter had to be one that represented both Provinces equally and the founding members were asked if they would like to put a name forward to be voted on by the founders. Five Chapter names were put forward and voted on with the winning name being Brycgstow (pronounced Brikstow). The meaning of the name; at the start of the iron age, Gloucestershire and Bristol were linked as one Province. Iron age hillforts were located around the rivers Frome and Avon, which were later replaced with Roman settlements. This area was historically called Brycgstow, the Old English meaning of the name is ‘the place by the bridge’. The President, Officers and Brethren of Wyvern Chapter wish the very best of luck to the Founding President, Anthony ‘Spook’ Brookes, his Officers and Brethren with their new venture and exciting times ahead and we look forward to riding together from this moment on. Hopefully Spook will receive the new Charter at the National Rally in July.



President's Ball 2023

On Saturday 28 January 2023, East Kent hosted the inaugural Widows Sons President's Ball, at the Village Hotel, Maidstone, in aid of Lifelites, the national Widows Sons Charity.

We had 136 guests in attendance; Widows Sons, Cornerstones, Masons and, family and friends, all in black tie (well most were) and posh frocks, representing East Kent, West Kent, South East, Southern (Hampshire & Isle of Wight), Surrey, Essex & Hertfordshire as well as our National President and Secretary.



A few had stopped over the night before and enjoyed a swim, a sauna and the bar at the hotel, as well as the local delights of Leeds Castle and Maidstone. The evening started with drinks and a long line at the photographer's stand, with couples and groups getting a great memento of the evening.



After being called to the tables in the banqueting suite, guests were welcomed with a (short) speech from the East Kent President, who described how

the evening had grown from idea discussed on the journey back from the National AGM last year. East Kent hoped it would become an annual event, that could be passed around the Chapters all across the country. A toast to the King, then a magician moved around the tables entertaining and wowing with slight of hand before the starters arrived.



The meal was enjoyed by all, a bottle of locally distilled Copper Rivet single malt was won at 'heads and tails' and plenty of drinks were consumed – the perfect time to start the auction! Ten Brands Hatch race day tickets had been donated by Invicta Commercials, a giant pink unicorn by D&A Toys Chatham and unique hand made Widows Sons Cigar Box Guitar by East Kent's very own Brian Buckland, aka Frog! Thank you to all who bid, and won the prizes – the guitar will be sitting nicely on display in a tattoo studio in Hampshire!



Everyone got up for a while and had a good dance to the disco, before they were rudely interrupted for the raffle! There was a grand selection of prizes to be won and many had been generously donated by Kent business, from haircuts, to rounds of golf, to

bike MOT's and paraphernalia, brewery tours and wild bird feeder kits.

At this point, we would like to say a huge thank you to our donors:

- Co-op
- D&A Toys
- Darren Blumenthal
- Herne Bay Motorcycles
- Invicta Commercials
- Kent County Cricket
- Kikki Beauty
- Krazy Horse
- Photo Team
- Royal Engineers Museum
- Shepherd Neame
- The Frog Ukulele Factory
- The Hair Lounge
- The Little Sicilian Restaurant
- Unipet
- Village Hotel
- Westgate & Birchington Golf Course



The partying continued into the small hours with dancing and merriment, having raised over £2,000 on the night. And our neighbours, Icenis (Essex & Hertfordshire), have volunteered to take on the mantle and host the event next year! East Kent will be there and we are certain the event will be just as successful!

East Kent Widows Sons would like to thank everyone who attended, donated and made this an outstanding event that will continue its way around the country for many years to come!!

East Kent Chapter Roundup

The East Kent Widow Sons have certainly had a busy winter period, we may not have been out on the bikes as much, but we're certainly not slowing down!

At the beginning of December we completed our 4th annual Toy Run. This is now becoming much more recognised across the Province and with great help from Lodges and individual donations we managed to raise over £3,000. With a generous discount and donation from our local independent Toy Shop (D&A Toys)



we set off on a chilly Sunday with a Van and 3 cars full with over £4,000 worth of toys. We visited our nominated charities Gillingham Street Angels, Strode Park Foundation, Footprints, Rising Sun Domestic Abuse Charity



and Millmead Childrens Centre. All in all we covered Medway to Thanet and over 90 miles on the day. Finishing at Spitfire Café for a very needed warming spot of grub and a surprise patching for 'Mr Bump'.



We had also had a call from one of our Masonic centres, they were holding a Xmas party for the Ukrainian refugees in the area, would we be able to help?? We tagged on an extra visit with Toys for the kids, presents for the mums and chocolates for the host families.



The weekend after we had our Xmas dinner – a good turnout with over 30 of us taking over a corner of a pub, enjoying a carvery and raising over £150 on a bumper Xmas raffle.

January has been just as busy – lots of masonic visiting among the brethren, with a double advancement into the Hundred of Hoo Mark Lodge with the Widows Sons. That is now



We were also invited to an Open Day for one of the lodges in the Province. Lama, Bluebell and Pockets took on the mantle and had a stand in the lodge, to explain to the general public a bit more about us. It went down really well with lots of interest and even a couple of possible Cornerstones!

Our natter Nites continue to be a pleasure to go along to – even in the cold winter months – and we patched Turkey at the January event – to make sure he could have his WS regalia ready (3 days) in time for the Presidents Ball!!

But, the biggest event of the year so far has been the inaugural Presidents Ball! More about that in a separate article – but East Kent were very proud to get the ball rolling on what could be a very big and successful annual event!

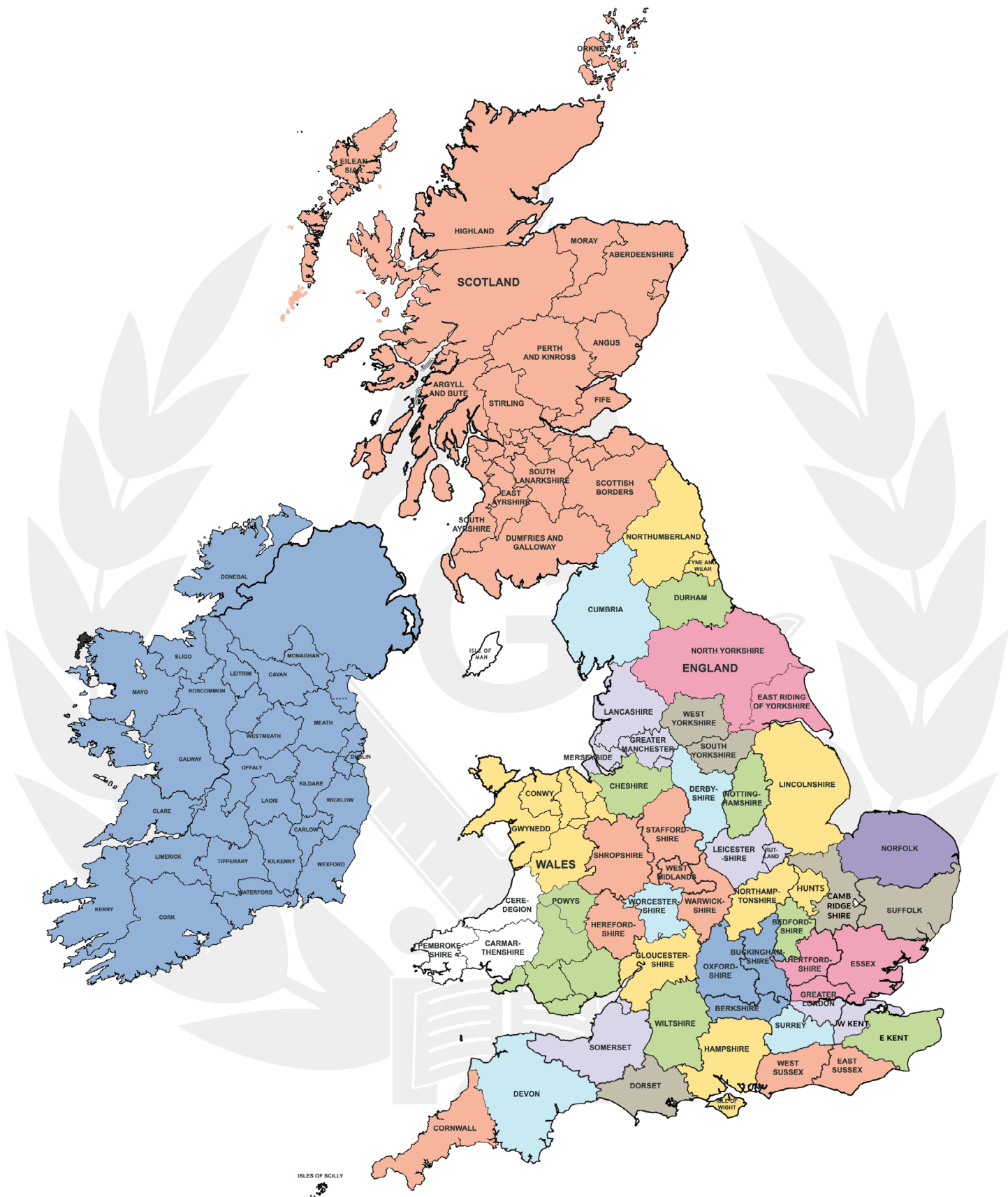
There is lots more planned for the year – a trip to see the Pilgrims, a partnership with Help the Aged, a number of rides planned already and obviously the annual trip to the National Rally!

14 Widows Sons in the Lodge with another 6 still to be advanced (at the time of writing) – welcome to Mark Thumper and Elf (who we surprised by patching on the night after his advancement)!



Who and where

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



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



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

Lifelites Update

I want to thank you all for the incredible fundraising that we've seen from Widows Sons chapters over the past few months. Back at Christmas you handed over half of the funds that you are seeking to raise - £10,000 of the £20,000 Platinum Partner target, and we are delighted that you are closing the gap on meeting this target.

To put this into context, last week I had the pleasure of visiting one of our children's hospice partners where we have been able to donate a whole package of new technology, including an item called Soundbeam, which allows children, even if they can only move their hand or arm very slightly, a chance to make music thanks to its highly sensitive contact-free movement sensors. Seeing children singing and playing music, perhaps for the first time since their degenerative condition took away their ability to play was a joyful and fulfilling experience.

We have also had some lovely feedback from some of the children who have been able to play computer games together. Themes of bringing children together and giving them a chance to control something for themselves is very empowering and helps many to build relationships with other children and young people, and hospice staff, giving them a stronger support network where they might even be able to share their worries, fears and thoughts about death.

The power of technology continues to give children using hospice services across the country a chance to play, create and communicate and we couldn't help to give them access to this without your kind and continued support. Thank you. **Samuel Davies, Lifelites**

Lifelites intro video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivZEK0MFthU>

Kids gaming at Chestnut Tree House - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Drs0_L_vo00

Kids gaming at Naomi House and jacksplace - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-eiftG9Xoc>



PGB AGM - Saturday 25th February 2023 - The Stuart Hotel, Derby

The AGM was held at a new venue this year, then the previous hotel cancelled at the last minute. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of John “Very Grumpy” Perridge he was able to secure which I consider a better venue just around the corner. Thanks to all the PGB members for their patience and understanding with all the upheaval and changes. Another example of when the “Chips are down” we can all pull together and make it happen.

The Meeting itself

I am typing this before the minutes have been compiled and what follows is a summary and not too long to read.

26 Chapters were represented and new Charters granted to 5 new Chapters. There were representatives from all over England and Wales plus from Gibraltar and the Netherlands!

Greg Kirby was voted in as Chairman and Andy Hunn and Harry Blinston voted in as Vice Chairs, North and South respectively. Peter Younger retained his position as Development officer, the Treasurer post was again filled by Martin Ward, who also took on the IT lead to. John Perridge was appointed to the Almoners role and I was again blessed to be appointed Secretary. The News Team the guys who produce this fantastic publication agreed to do another year, so thanks to Clive Andrew-Lewis, Richard Webber and Phillip Meynell.

Our Chairman thanked everyone for all their efforts over the past year and the support given to the many charities and to make the WSMBA what it is today. What had been highlighted from various speakers that with a clear aim and focus we were achieving great things. One example was the pledge to raise £20,000 for the Lifelites Charity within 4 years. At the time of the AGM that figure was £15,000 in just a year. It was agreed to see the 4-year pledge through and who knows what monies can be raised at the end!



Membership was slightly up on the previous year but more importantly what was evident that more New Freemasons were introduced to the fraternity via their membership to the Widows Sons as associates then full members. The lockdown period put a delay on new masons becoming Master Masons but they were now progressing through their masonic journey.

New Charters were agreed for the following Chapters;

Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire

Derbyshire

Gloucester and Bristol

Leicester & Rutland

Nottinghamshire

The full minutes have yet to be published but the reports from across the Chapter was steady growth in members and a commitment to raise monies for good causes. Those total raised were in excess of £140,000 for 2022, which is fantastic effort, much of which goes unnoticed outside our sphere.

One report of note was given by Andy Simister

of Ridings Chapter, the year before he was unable to attend having been involved in a serious traffic collision and was receiving Intensive care. However due to the outstanding work of the emergency services, NHS and support from friends family, MCF and his own resilience and determination was able to stand before the members and give the Ridings report.

Date for the next AGM 24th February 2024 same venue.



Pilgrims Summer Bash 2023



When

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th May
2023 - 12pm - late

Camping Available on Friday
email for details

Tickets

£25 per person

Open to all Widows Sons
MBA

Where

Morched Bishop Bowling Club
Wood Lane EX17 6PE

What 3 Words:
switch.corded.purchaser

Benefiting

Pilgrims Widows Sons
MBA Charity

Featuring

Organised rideout across Devon on Saturday •
Camping • Showers • BBQ • Bar • Music • Games
Come and enjoy the hospitality with your Devon
Brothers and air those tents ready for the National

Booking

secretary@pilgrims-
wsmba.co.uk

WWW.PILGRIMS-WSMBA.CO.UK

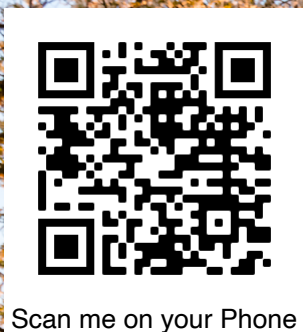
Next issue

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

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

Please send your submissions, articles, stories, images, events and Chapter News (plain text with separate images preferred - not embedded in documents) for the next issue to the Editor by email to: news@wsmba.uk no later than **Thursday 18th May** as the typesetter is on holiday soon after!

Please all be safe, ride safe and keep well.



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>