

THE Son



Issue 8
Winter 2022



Welcome to the final edition of the Son for 2022. And what a year it has been. For the first time in all of our lives we have experienced a change of monarch. I should believe we were all impressed with the unsurpassable dignity, pageantry and ceremony that was broadcast to the world to lay our late Majesty Queen Elizabeth to rest.

A woman who devoted her life to our country and was working right to the very end. An inspiration to all of us. A few of you have asked about a commemorative patch to mark her reign and I understand a few ideas are being circulated and will see if we can get something distributed that we can agree on as soon as possible.

The season of War Memorial Rides and wreath laying is now over for another year and again it was moving to see so many of you out there paying respect to the fallen. Not only at our local towns and village memorials but also across to the Menin Gate at Ypres. We now move on from remembering the horrors of war to the joy of Christmas. The festive season beckons and no doubt us masonic bikers will be playing our part dressing up as Santa and decorating the bikes prior to riding into masonic centres, hospices and children's homes. Masonic Centres have seen collection bins appearing since September and appeal letters going out to centre lodges for donations and from what I gather the responses have been very positive. There are many toy runs being planned and collectively am sure we will be making a difference to a lot of underprivileged children, especially given the current economic restraints being experienced across the land.

Talking about children the Lifelites Platinum Partner appeal is going well with over half the amount raised since the launch in April 2022, and with many chapters still to donate to this very worthy cause am sure we will hit the target of £20,000. Please make a donation if you haven't already as the original contribution figures can be halved now and the more we raise the easier it becomes to reach the £20,000 pledged. The next big event to raise funds for Lifelites will be the Presidents Ball 28th

January 2023 in Maidstone. East Kent Chapter have organised it all and at £45 per head for a black-tie event with a three course meal and entertainment, it does represent good value. If you can't make it they are also accepting items for auction or raffle. Enthused by our efforts thus far the Comms Team at Lifelites want us to present the £10,000 raised to date at Freemasons Hall Great Queen Street at midday on Thursday 8th December in order to publicise the work they do at Christmas and allow them to thank us publicly for our support. If you can make it by bike or by foot please let me know. The more the merrier!

Our AGM is scheduled for Saturday 25th February 2023 returning once more to the same venue in Derby as last year and John Perridge is once again arranging the bookings. No doubt there will be a curry night thrown in as well in order to allow us to socialise after the business meeting. Always a good opportunity to get to know each other better and renew acquaintances. The booking details will be circulated by our Secretary Gavin in due course. Hoping all Chapters will be represented as it is a great opportunity to get together to agree on the path forward of our Association and thrash out issues to further our development. Any agenda items you feel worthy of inclusion please do not hesitate to put forward to Gavin in good time to be considered for listing on the order of business.

Although some of us are mothballing our bikes for the winter, please spare a thought for those that are seasoned all year round riders. Either for commuting, working, or volunteering. Whether it be challenges offered to us by our Provinces or the weather, we are there to provide bikes, be it the toy runs, blood runners, paramedics and prostrate test samples being ferried to labs, they all count as part of what we do as Freemasons with a passion for two wheels. Our diversity and passion is what makes our Association special.

As this is the last issue for 2022 and before issue 9 March 2023 may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

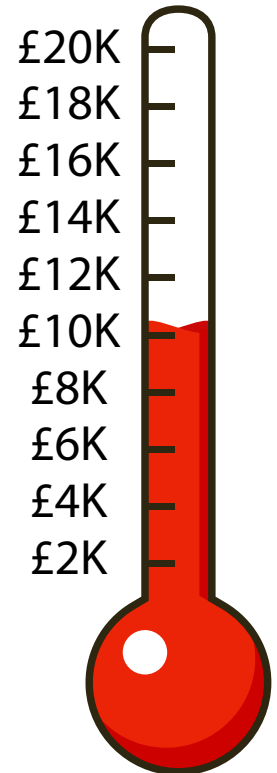
W. Bro Gregory Kirby
National Chairman

On behalf of our small team at Lifelites and the hospice staff and children that we support, we'd like to thank Widows Sons for their continuing efforts to raise funds and become our next Platinum Partner.

We have been donating new packages of technology over the past few months and meeting families who are using their local hospice service for both respite and end of life care. Seeing families playing together thanks to the technology we have donated is wonderful to behold. One father that we spoke with recently talked about the benefit of the technology helping him to connect with his son who has several life-limiting conditions. As a father myself, I know the impact that can make, and I'm sure many of you can imagine that too. It is often easier for us to understand our children if we are both focussing on the same external task or activity and whereas some will go out and fish together, play football, or go for a walk, for the children and families that we support gathering around and using a piece of technology might be the only opportunity to build these relationships.

We know that families with children with life-limiting conditions are going through an especially difficult time at the moment because of the cost of living crisis and the disproportionate impact that has on families with disabled and life-limiting children. With your support we can continue to give these families a chance for vital respite at their local children's hospice with the promise of the very best assistive and inclusive technology. Together we can help to alleviate their stress and give both the children and their families unforgettable moments of connection and joy.

Samuel Davies
Head of Fundraising & PR, Lifelites



THE Son is edited by W. Bro Phil Meynell

Please send submissions as Word files with attached pictures by email to: news@wsmba.uk

Philip Meynell (aka Animal)

BEDA Chapter Roundup

BEDA Raisings

On the 15th of October, Bro Jeff Boote, and Beda President, had the pleasure of patching three brothers into the Chapter as Full Widows Sons in the presence of the PGM R/W Bro Tony Henderson who is an honorary member with the road name of Akela.

The patching followed a double raising within John Bunyan Lodge of Bro's Mark Lane and Russ Shaw. Both brothers joined Beda as associate members having no masonic links. Through their riding with the chapter, they enquired about Masonic Membership and were initiated into the craft. Their journey to MM was completed in the double raising. The past president of Beda, W/ Bro Chris Handley had the pleasure of being in the chair and conducting the ceremony.

Directly after the meeting, the temple was cleared, and the members of Beda remained to assist with the patching.

W/Bro Fred "Kipper" Herring was patched alongside Bro's Mark "Wildcat" Lane and Russ "Coach" Shaw.

It was a great evening with the fun continuing at the festive board

#Proud_to_be_a_Mason

#Proud_to_be_WS



Fundraising Run

In September, Stuart Prouse (aka Goulash) ran the Swansea Bay 10K raising money for SERV Herts and Beds. Stuart completed the run in 54:48 and raised just over £722. He finished in position 1141 overall and 59th in the male 55-60 category. A

very flat course starting outside St Helens Rugby ground with a 5K run out to Mumbles and then the coastal path back. Total elevation was 12m. Next year? If his feet have forgiven him!

For more information on SERV, please checkout <https://www.servhertsbeds.org.uk>



New Members

On top of the patching of Russ Shaw and Mark Crellin-Lane to full Widows Sons, new members of Beda were patched in at a ceremony in September. Four new members received their patches and road names given. Johnny "Little John" Boddy and Mark "Kill Switch" Austin joined as full Widows Sons and Julia "Twanky" Newell and Sarah "Foot Fairy" Winter-Goodwin joined as Clangers. The evening was well supported by Beda members as the draw of a post-patching curry always boosts the numbers. Welcome to Beda!!



Bedfordshire Masonic Fun Day

On a beautiful Sunday morning in August, nine bikes set off from the normal breakfast meetup spot for a short ride to the Bedfordshire Masonic Family fun day in Bromham. What an entrance Beda made! With the roar of the engines echoing across the fields, it stopped people in their tracks to focus on the petrol smelling, leather waistcoat wearing masons. The last time BEDA had been to the Scout site in Bromham, the PGM and provincial team laid a log! The first log for the construction of a brand-new facility for the scouts. This was made possible by the very generous donations from Bedfordshire Freemasons of £500k.

A lot of effort had been put in behind the scenes to make this day a very joyous occasion. There was a hog roast, a beer tent, a bouncy castle, sponge throwing, digger skills (Jonny holds the record) football darts (Luigi got the highest score of the day) along with a classic car display and much more.

With the sun in full blaze a few other Beda members, who were unable to ride on the day, joined us with their family. A special mention to Spartan and Dodger who introduced BEDA's first baby to us let some of us have a few cuddles with Freya. She was only a month old and had attended her first event.

As the afternoon temperatures rose, Beda made their exit at separate intervals which yet again turned the heads. The PGM was extremely happy to see us there supporting the day especially as some of Beda were also on a trip to Wales. The joys of having many members means we can always try to support the province the way that they support us.



Ride out – American War Cemetery - 17th September 2022

We met up at the Brewers Fayre Kempston as usual, and all breakfasted. We had a few new riders as guests as well as a prospect with new bike, so briefing done we set off down the A4221 but soon enough took the exit taking us via some slower roads. The sun was out and there was no rush. We weaved our way over to the Cambridgeshire border via Moggerhanger, Sandy, Potton and Wrestlingworth before joining the Cambridge Road (B1042) in good time and arrived at the Cemetery in a single party (RESULT!!).



The grounds, as you can imagine, are kept immaculately as they should be. Like all places of memorial it was a rather sobering and sombre place, peaceful and thought provoking. The Chapel is stunning with some good

interesting pieces on the history of the conflict and the sacrifice of the American Armed forces and has a stunning mosaic across the ceiling and down one wall.

We spent a fair hour at the cemetery before departing toward Hardwick and joining the A428.



Alas, an incident at the A428 roundabout saw the pack split, we managed to all reconvene further down the A428. We turned off at Eltisley toward Gamlingay for a coffee and cake at Woodview Farm-shop (who doesn't like cake?). We all went our separate ways from here having enjoyed a good ride, in good weather, with good company, and EXCELLENT CAKE!



Meet the neighbours

On Sunday 30th October, Beda attended the Sussex chapter hosted "Meet the Neighbours" at the Ace Café. As with previous meets, other chapters attended and enjoyed the camaraderie, meeting new and old faces and of course Ace fry-ups. The weather was against us a little as were the autumn leaves, but we had a great ride.



Remembrance Sunday

As with previous years, Beda attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the War



Memorial in Bedford. A sombre event as always and good attendance from all parts of society including our four-legged friends. President Jeff Boote and Almoner Connor Gosling laid a wreath on behalf of Beda. In attendance was Snatch, Luigi, Fugazi, Jamja, Spartan, Dodger, Little John, Elmer, Beader, Goulash, Wildcat, Tinkerbell, Maverick, Mrs Tinkerbell (Joyce) and our very first Beda baby, Freya.

Twenty-Six miles? Are you mad?

Our very own clanger, Heather Crellin-Lane (road name Sticks), completed the London Marathon in October. After months of training and a couple of injuries on the way, she completed it in 5:11:54 and raised over £2500 for Sported. Heather works at Nissan and his is one of their supported charities. As always, many Beda members donated to this deserving cause.



Halloween at Kids In Action

Members of Beda continue to support Kids in Action which was one of the first charities supported by the chapter. Halloween fell on a Monday this year which is "adults" evening. All the "adults" have been with KIA for many years coming through the charity as children. Westside, Maverick, Spartan, Gizmo, Pikey and Crazylegs all attended a fun evening with plenty of terrible jokes and dad dancing at the disco.



Cheshire Chapter Roundup

Routine operations for Cheshire Widows Sons MBA for the last few months. We raised money for worthwhile causes and distributed it out. This appeal was led by Mark and supported by CWSMBA. Toys for all ages for those not fortunate to receive anything from Father Christmas this year.



We had a ride out to the National Arboretum and spotted a large collection of speed cameras lurking about in the area! We went a week after the mass gathering to avoid some of the antics witnessed in previous years and to allow us to roam around more easily. It is a credit to all the volunteers, over 400, and staff who keep this venue in such spectacular condition.

CWSMBA continue with their monthly

breakfasts. A great opportunity not only for an excuse to have a ride but sample the culinary delights across the region with family and friends. Also, a chance to catchup with the Welsh side of the family.

As always, we showed our respects across the province for our fallen heroes. We partook

in processions, wreath laying and bowing our heads in remembrance in various locations. As well as laying crosses on the Victoria Cross recipients across Cheshire.



East Kent Chapter Roundup

The East Kent Widow Sons have certainly had a busy year, both in Kent and across the UK.



In August we stepped back in time (obviously on a full stomach) to explore Temple Manor (Rochester), and the Kent countryside on our trusty motorised

steeds. We rounded the day off with a quick shopping trip to a rather large motorcycle accessories outlet (you could hear the tills ringing), and then off to the Hook and Hatchet pub, for beer, food and a live band playing on the pub roof!

During September we were invited to by the Widows Sons of West Kent to lay a wreath



at the Battle of Britain War Memorial at Capel Le Ferne. We had a great turnout, it was a glorious day, good to see our brothers from West Kent, and to remember those who gave so much for our freedom today.

October brought about a couple of outings, one



was a trip up to the Ace Café where we were met by Icen and The Shires on lovely sunny Sunday morning, followed by a trip round the South Circular to make sure we did the full inner ring road of little old London. Later in the month we had a little bumble around the Kent countryside, with the President taking a number of on some lovely country roads (not a single housing estate either – which makes a change) and finishing up at a lovely spot called Samphire Ho!

In November we were honoured to support our brother, founding member, friend and EKWS Treasurer Mike 'Preacher' Cook into the chair of King Solomon. It was a long, but beautiful ceremony, and the lodge was packed (such a good turnout for Mike from the Widows Sons).

Good food/company afterwards, and endless toasts made for a great day. The Gillingham Lodge of Friendship 8453 made all feel very welcome and they may see quite a bit of the Widows Sons this year. We also have 2 raisings, our annual Toy Run and The Presidents Ball all on the horizon – but all to be covered in the next edition!

West Midlands Chapter Roundup

The last few months have been no less busy for the Chapter, our FSOM (First Sunday of the Month) meeting saw us at Halfpenny Green Airport for Breakfast followed by patching in W. Bro Jake



Harvey (as "Flash" - not due to speed, but gained by confusing toilet wipes with bum wipes) then a Tour round Vulcan XM655 - which despite not

being certified for flight had recently mangade to run off the Runway during a Taxi demonstration run. A great tour around the plane and some eye opening facts from one of the Cold War Pilots.

3rd December saw us at Monmore Green Dog track for our Christmas party and a night at the Races, where our Pres, W. Bro. Ian Cole was able to patch in some Bad Pennies - in the freezing cold and rain. There were no reports of fortunes being made or lost, but everyone had a fantastic time, with a healthy Charity Sum raised - worth a repeat visit, but next time make it warmer!



West Kent Chapter Roundup

Not a lot to report from West Kent for this edition. We continue our ride outs. Four of us attended the Widows Sons Lodge meeting at the Cross Keys on the 27th August.

Although not a Widows Sons ride, our President, whilst attending the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ieper in July was asked to deliver the exhortation proudly wearing his cut.



memorial.

One of our Cornerstones was raised in September and has now become a full member with another Cornerstone being raised in December so our membership is slowly growing.



At the end of October our President joined the National Chairman and members of Widows Sons Surrey to provide a 70th Birthday surprise to the mother of a fellow Mason.

Our Christmas toy appeal is in full swing, but we'll cover that in the next edition.



On the 18th September we rode down to the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne to lay a wreath in remembrance of those who fought to keep us safe. We met up with some of the members from East Kent at the



Widows Sons Lodge 10011

What a brilliant weekend and I will never forget this meeting as long as I live.

This meeting was another bookmark in history as we held our third regular meeting at the Widows Sons National Rally held in Bishop Auckland.



A quick count in lodge showed that we had 150 visitors and around 40 members, when was the last time you saw 190 people in a regular lodge?

We have said from the outset that this lodge would be fun, we would dare

to be different and we would 'theme' the lodge to suit the membership. Still work in progress but we are definitely getting there.



The Worshipful Master accompanied by his Wardens were escorted into lodge to the sound of THUNDERSTRUCK, the brethren in the lodge clapped in tune to the music as the Master and his Wardens to their seats on their Triumph bikes. Gavel's are pistons, wands are made from tent poles to allow them to be collapsible for transport and so it goes on.

The Lodge welcomed two new brothers to the



growing numbers and good humour all round the lodge made it a fun and extremely enjoyable afternoon of freemasonry. We had a talk on the Blood Bikes and what they do for our communities, and a good number of these bikes are supplied by Masonic groups, including the newest addition instigated by our lodge.

On our exit of the lodge we had a collection (yes in an open face helmet) and raised a massive £501.80 for our charity of the year which is the Blood Bikes.

Thank you to the Rally organisers for allowing us



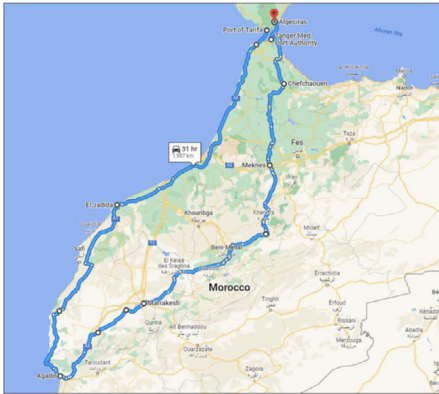
to hold a lodge at the rally and accommodating us. We made history together and your help was hugely appreciated.

Andy Hunn



Gibraltar Chapter Roundup

The Gibraltar Chapter were finally able to revert to its yearly tours, having completed trips around Spain and Portugal it was now time for our traditional visit to Morocco which had alluded us for over 3 years.



A group of 11 riders departed from Gibraltar towards the city of Tarifa on 8th November 2022 where we crossed on the ferry to the city of Tangier Ville.

Arrangements were made to start our tour with our first overnight stay in Tangier's, a city which has seen many improvements during the last decade particularly in the last 2 years during the Covid period which Morocco spent a very long period in total lockdown.

The total tour would see us travel to 6 main cities, Tangier's, El Jadida, Agadir, Marrakech, Meknes and finally Chefchaouen better known as the blue city. A total of 7 nights covering approximately 2,159km.



As customary, arrangements to hold our main events were made at different locations during our tour. We kicked off with our main dinner at the Pure Passion restaurant



in the seaside resort of Agadir on day 3, exceptional cuisine particularly the fish and the beef wellington were amazing together with the stand-out service.

This was followed by day rest in Agadir, we managed to visit the Souk area in the old town together with the old historical sights in the Medina and the history of the earthquake which devastated the area in 1960.

Next was our visit to Marrakech located inland approx. 250 km from Agadir. Instead of riding direct to Marrakech we rode towards the town of Essaouira located on Morocco's Atlantic coast, the coastal road from Agadir to Essaouira which is one of the most beautiful drives in the country and well worth revisiting again.



The road links the cities of Agadir, in the foothills of the Anti-Atlas Mountains, and Essaouira, a port city and its resorts. The road has finally been resurfaced to asphalted since our last visit. This spectacular road winds for about 175 km between the sea and the desert. The surface of the road was great for riding although mostly slow and winding, but it doesn't have any steep drop-offs or narrow bits. I'm sure most riders would agree that this road offered an exhilarating riding experience, with superb views.

Our traditional arrival to Marrakech always gets the attraction of the Oasis Cafe restaurant located withing the Afriquia service stations.

As expected, and by popular request we enjoyed our BBQ lunch within the very friendly atmosphere of the staff. This Café offers a restaurant outer space that always meets our expectations with impeccable quality of service and food.

Once settled into the hotel after a long day's ride and stomachs about to explode it was time to get some exercise. A visit to the main attraction of the



time at the hotel pool before visiting the upper town and taking in the traditional colours of the houses and streets.

Dinner arrangements ensured we visited a special restaurant the Tissemlal of Casa Hassan, located within the upper medina. This restaurant provided the perfect setting to the end of our Morocco tour.

The total charity collection for this trip was £300, this will be donated to Prostate Cancer Gibraltar.

medina is its labyrinthine souks, or traditional traders' markets. Dark, crowded, and filled with the exotic smells of spices and leather. It was difficult how some of the brethren could eat some more.....

It was time to continue our trip north, next town was Meknes located 454 km and approx.8 hours of riding on the national (N8) roads, with the uncertainty of what type of delays we could come across considering the amount of works currently been carried out on secondary (P) roads. To ensure a safe journey and keep the riding time to an acceptable level we decided to take the toll road to Meknes, this road once again took us to the Atlantic coast towards the city of Casablanca then north to the capital of Rabat before turning inland again toward Meknes.

As we continued to enjoy our trip, time was passing us by very fast before we realised, we were on to our last ride to the city of Chefchaouen. This city is better known as the 'Blue Pearl' of Morocco for its traditional houses painted in blue and white by Jewish immigrants.

We managed to get enough



Sussex Chapter Roundup

Clay Shoot



The autumn finished with a bang for the Sussex Chapter, in fact 1500 bangs, at our Clay Shoot on the 11th September. Members of the Sussex Chapter along with guys from the Holywell Club (light blue club)

were up before sun rise to set up for the day in a field owned by our President, Karl Hopper-Young. At 8am the organisers along with 53 attendees descended on the Custom Café to start the day proper, as all Widow Sons event should, with a full English before a good days shooting.



The day was designed to be a real family occasion with food, music and prizes for the best shot and the 'Barn Door Sniper' Award for the worst shooter.

At one stage a medical emergency threatened to derail the provision of food, but in his own selfless style, our VP, Dan McClusky made a quick visit to the local Bookers, and with help from his daughters, Maddie and Lottie, cooked up a satisfying spread on the BBQ.

The day was a huge success, with loads of generous cash donations, which was very humbling indeed, we raised £1300 for the Sussex DocBike to help keep us safe on the roads in Sussex

Dan's Gourmet BBQ

On Sunday 14th August it was all round to VP Dan McClusky's (a trained Chef) where we were treated to his gastronomic delights, a virtual meat fest. The weather was a scorcher. A great event for the wives and partners to meet and no doubt discuss the excessive amount of time we spend priming, cleaning and riding our beloved bikes.

The Kent Museum of Freemasonry



We were really looking forward to our rideout to Canterbury to visit this Masonic Museum which boasts a rare collection of exhibits of national and international importance. The only problem was it was shut! I guess we had been warned when we were told it would be open "providing the volunteer turned up". Despite this setback we found ourselves a café and drowned our sorrows in tea and grease. As it turned out it was a fantastic, enjoyable cross-country rideout and good for once to get away from the tedium of the motorways.

Brooklands Museum

After a blazing September the heavens opened



with a vengeance of the day of our planned visit to Brooklands Museum on 2nd October. The weather was really bad in the morning and we all discovered just how unreliable our expensive waterproofs were. All the members handled the journey well, although it has to be said that the motorway parts were truly horrible.

Although naturally drawn to the fabulous exhibit of motorbikes, the displays of vintage cars and planes proved to be equally popular with the Members and Cornerstones that braved the elements. Ironically the weather was lovely in the afternoon for the return leg.



Ace Café London

Once again a soggy start did not deter the Sussex (Duck) Chapter making the pilgrimage to the home for petrolheads, the Ace Café London. Our Road Captain, Simon Rideout got us all there safely. It was great to meet up with members from other Chapters, Icen,

Beda, The Shires any many more. It was a brilliant morning, very relaxing and a lot of good humoured banter, just how it should be.

Natter Nights

The Sussex Chapter held its regular Natter Nights at the Cock Inn in Ringmer where we are treated to our own space for the evening and excellent food. Our September meeting was particularly memorable as we were joined by John Allsopp, the Regional Lead for DocBike Sussex, who gave a brief summary



of their work and was then presented with a cheque for £1300 by our Road Captain, Simon Rideout. the proceeds from the recent Clay Shoot. John later posted on their website "It's a successful Chapter because it's full of good, decent, honourable,

honest people of good character, who care about each other and love riding bikes with purpose. The Chapter's Chaplain, John Button was keen to promote DocBike within the Sussex Freemasons Lodges".

MTSFC (Masonic Trout & Salmon Fishing Club)

Having become involved in the MTSFC, our President, Karl Hopper-Young, was keen to co-opt other seasoned fishing enthusiasts from within the Sussex Chapter. He invited 3 of us, VP Dan McClusky and his father Jon Sewell plus Comms Officer, Roger White to Chalk Springs, Arundel for a spot of fly fishing with children from two special needs schools.



As with the last few events, the elements were not on our side. Torrential rain and floods accompanied the 50 mile trek for homes to the venue arriving at 7.30am to help set up for the day. Fortunately the weather improved as the morning progressed and was fine by the time the children arrived. The children were paired with casters and a good number of trout were caught after which the children were provided with lunch and presented with medals and certificates. What a great, rewarding experience.

Membership

Membership of the Sussex Chapter continues to grow organically with some 26 Members and Cornerstones now on-board. Congratulations to Cornerstone Liam Currie who, in August, obtained his full licence and becomes a full member of the Widows Sons MBA Sussex Chapter. Even more recently, Sam White was initiated in Templar Aquila Lodge 9450 on Tuesday 25th October, the following Friday he passed his full test and became a Cornerstone and when he completes his 3rd Degree will become a Master Mason and a Widow's Son.

The Sussex Chapter is now busy making plans for its annual Toy Run to distribute toys and vouchers to local hospitals, hospices and other children charities. Large collection bins are already in place in Masonic Centres across the Sussex Province. Plans for the first rideout of the New Year are already in hand with a January visit to the Sammy Miller Museum in New Milton, Hampshire.

Parisi Chapter Roundup

It has to be said that things have been a little quiet since our last report but as most members of Parisi are also members of the Widows Sons Lodge 10011 we have naturally put a lot of effort into ensuring that the new lodge is as successful as we hoped. And thanks to the members of both the Chapter and the Lodge we aren't disappointed.



However we are well known for travelling here and there on our bikes and whilst we have put in a lot of miles travelling to lodge meetings we have also found time to head out on our own, we recently made our way to Bonny Scotland and spent a week there flitting from hotel to hotel and experiencing the wonderful roads, scenery and Scottish hospitality that Scotland is renowned for. This trip to Scotland was the 6th country visited by The Parisi this year. We have found ourselves in Scotland, Wales,



the far flung reaches of England, Holland, Spain and Portugal, and all as a chapter. Along the way we have made some great new friends, cemented old friendships, seen some wonderful sights and generally had a great



time. Already plans are well in hand for next year with France, Scotland, Gibraltar and Spain all in the planning. No point having a bike if you're not going to use it! more Parisi members have been branded this year and all returned



home full of praise for our Scottish Brethren and the outstanding event that so many of us have witnessed.



The National Rally.

As you may know in 2023 the National Rally will be jointly hosted by The Parisi, The Ridings and The Lincs Imps. The dates to note are the 28th, 29th and 30th of July. Ticketing details will be announced shortly.

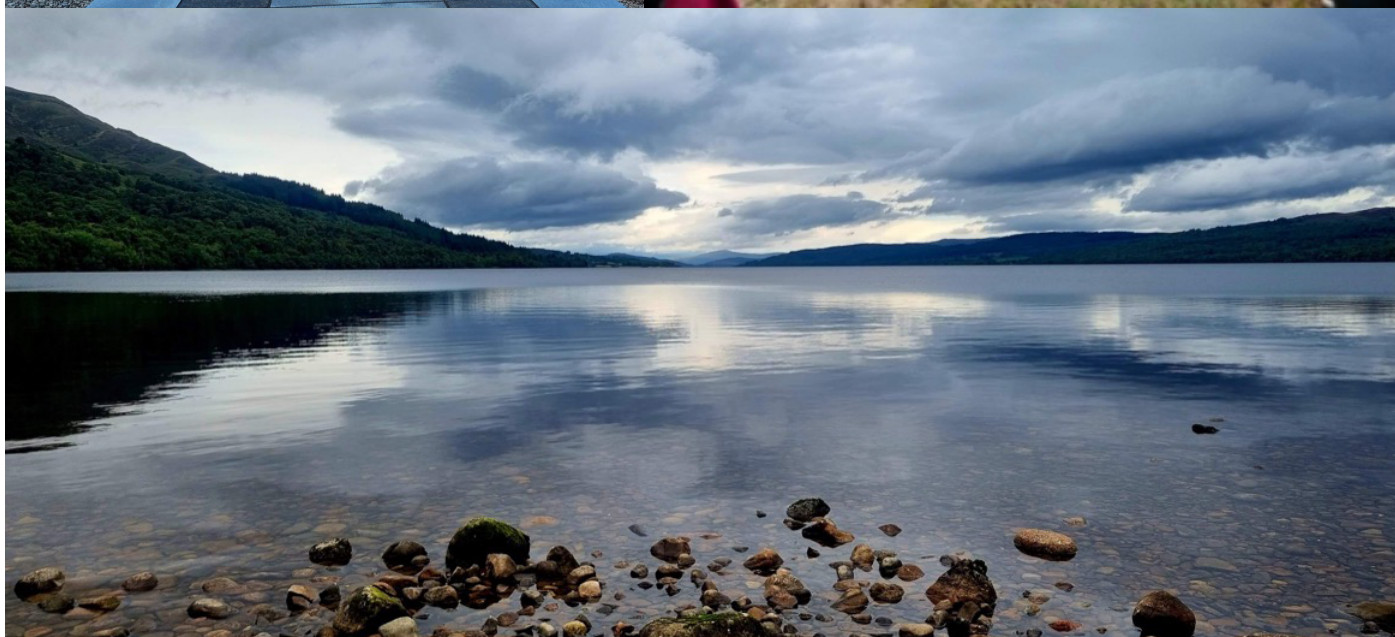
The venue is
Brantingham Park
Brantingham Road
Brough
East Yorkshire
HU15 1HX

Please note.

The venue has a very strict policy of NO DOGS. So please do not bring them as they will ask you to leave. Forewarned is forarmed.

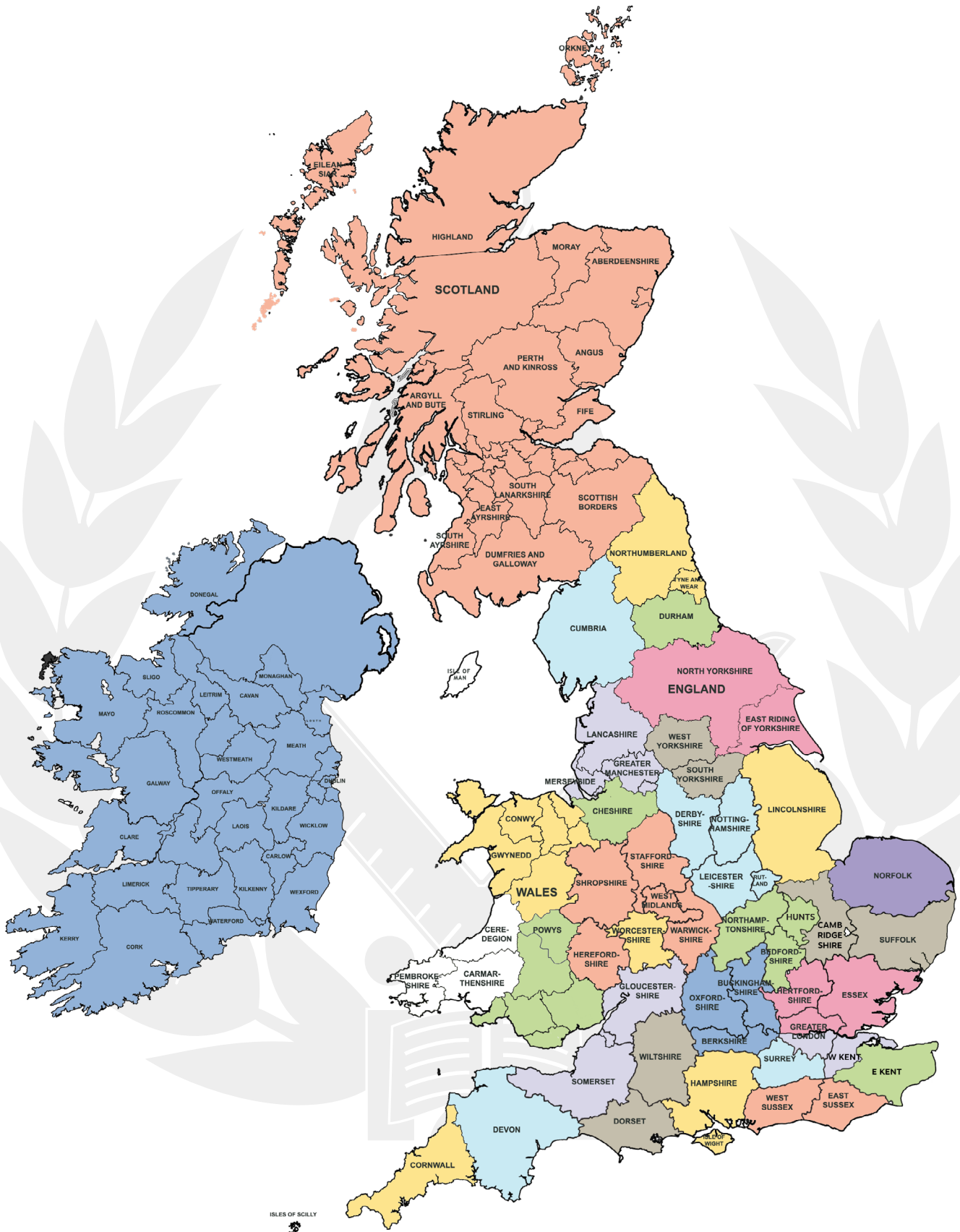
Have a fantastic Christmas and a wonderful New Year. We look forward to seeing you all at the National Rally in July.

Andy aka Soul Man.
Parisi.



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.wsmбан.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/

Pilgrims Chapter Update

On Sunday 4th September, the Pilgrims Chapter of the Widows Sons MBA held our annual ride in memory of one of our founder members, Rob Walls. The ride is open to the public and raises funds for St Luke's Hospice, which is where Rob spent his last days. The route follows one of Rob's favourite rides along the south coast of Devon from Plymouth to Dartmouth and along the spectacular coast road to Torcross. The ride paused in Torcross. The beach here was the practice ground for the American D Day landings, which unfortunately ended in tragedy. In spite of threatening weather we had a good safe ride out and back to Plymouth, and participants were generous in their donations. After the ride, the Pilgrims Chapter took their bikes up to St Luke's Hospice. The sun came out, so the nurses were able to bring one of the residents outside in his bed (a biker to the end), to see the bikes and talk to us.

On the weekend of 17/18th September, Our VP and Treasurer headed to London to pay respects on behalf of the Chapter, and to lay a wreath to our late Queen, Queen Elizabeth II.

The weekend of 24/25 September saw the Pilgrims assisting the Ride for Bob fundraiser held by Unity Lodge, Crediton. The monies raised - well over £4500, went to MND research. The Pilgrims Chapter also presented a cheque for £500 to the Devonshire Province 2023 Festival.

Ride To The Wall. 1st October. For those (hopefully few) of you that have never attended - where have you been! For once the weather was dry and sunny, perfect riding conditions. The Pilgrims rode up from Devon, and met up with Wyvern Chapter at Gloucester services. We then rode on as a pack to meet up with the rest of the Widows Sons MBA at Tamworth Masonic Halls, to make the final ride into the Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas. Mingling with tens of thousands of other bikers, all there to pay their respects to the fallen never ceases to give me a feeling of awe. That evening the Pilgrims stayed at a hotel in Walsall. We were somewhat surprised to walk in to our chosen restaurant to find it full (and I MEAN full) of little people! They were apparently all auditioning for a new Star Wars movie. Our VP Lurch, who is 6'7", was an instant hit with them! Next morning after a good breakfast we all set off back to Devon, with our final stop being Cadogan Court Masonic Retirement Home. The home, celebrated its 35th year of operation that weekend and always welcome our visits. We were treated to pulled pork baps and a homemade Devonshire cream tea while some of the residents talked bikes, sat on bikes, revved throttles and generally seemed to have a great time.

As the nights draw in and winter approaches, it's great to look back over our memories of a long sunny autumn, and plan for next year's rides together.

The President and Past President also made





their long journeys to Duncarron Medieval Village in Stirling on Friday 4th November, where the Scottish Branding takes place. The village itself is a formidable place to visit on its own. On the Saturday evening after something to eat, it began. Someone told me that this ceremony is better than a third degree but I thought, no way. How wrong I was, that was something so special that will remain with us forever in our memories. We passed on our thanks to everyone including Andy Rankin for the fabulous weekend.

The next morning saw us both heading home through absolutely horrendous weather, and the 500 plus miles seemed to never end but 9½ hours later we got there. If we were asked if the journey was worth it, there would be no hesitation on the answer, simply, "Yes".

Profile of a Pilgrim.

My journey,

Hmmmm where do I start. I definitely don't

want to bore anyone with my life story but I was told by our President that's what he wanted me to write.... oh well here goes.

I was born in The Salvation Army Mother's home in Mare Street, Hackney, East London.... yes I am a true cockney ha ha.

My love of motorcycles started at around the age of 10, my Dad was a biker. I remember his stories about doing a ton on the straight road near the Wakes Arms at Epping Forest.... old bike names that some maybe haven't heard of Norton ES2, A.J.S. Spring twin. A long stroke Panther, with a forward sloping cylinder. Vincent Black shadow, Ariel square four etc.

At the tender age of 16 I got my First bike, a James Cadet 150cc... two stroke single, the plug was always oiling up, so probably pushed it more miles than rode it.... then advanced to the dizzy heights of a B.S.A. C15 250cc.... WOW! Many bikes later, now got 3. Two cruisers and a BMW R1200RT, love 'um all.

I did several different jobs after leaving school, London Transport underground, signal department, HGV lorry driving, joined London Division RNR and served aboard HMS Thames (a TON class minesweeper) as a "Greenie" (electrician) OEM 1..... I am still in touch with oppo's I served with. One is a survivor from the HMS Fittleton disaster AND I always visit the Ton class memorial at the RTTW.

I gradually moved West (although I sat in the East in 2007).... Served with Avon Ambulance service based at Bristol City Centre Station at Tower Hill.... did original training course at Bishops Waltham in Hampshire then further training at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol.

I've ALWAYS missed the camaraderie and banter in the Navy and Ambulance service BUT I've definitely found it again with the Widows Sons. The banter especially from our President Nails (I named him, sooooo funny) he's an ex Grenadier Guardsman.

I learnt to fly a hang glider in Wales, and later a micro light aircraft at Dunkerswell Airfield near Honiton. My mate reckons I only went flying so I could spot a good looking sheep from above ha ha.

Oh ...The brief story of Nails Road name, you might be aware of the "challenge" game of how many hammer blows it takes to completely bury a six inch nail into a log.... well it was Nails turn, after 8 missed attempts, then three nails glanced on the edge and 3 more sent for a flying lesson, one brother nearly losing an eye AND a dear lady biker who was SO glad she was wearing a padded bra ... he actually hit the nail and it went in the log about err 5mm !! .. I couldn't stop laughing, he's a builder by the way.... his lame excuse "I usually use a paslode nail gun" Sorry boss x ...

I've worked out the more they take the p*** the more they like you. I must be really liked ha ha ha.

Later in my life I owned and operated a HGV driving school in Exeter..... I taught over 3,000 people to drive an Artic (5 have passed!) seriously I've probably got about 5 that didn't pass!

I was initiated into freemasonry in 1998, WM of my mother lodge in 2007 & 2019 Now P. Pr. Grand Superintendent of Works. I feel so privileged and proud to be a member of the Widows Sons MBA... My First patch was awarded on 21st. January 2018. I am honoured to have been appointed the Almoner for our Chapter (The Pilgrims), a position I've held for three years now.

Getting old now, but still feel 18 in my head and heart Life's lessons also from my Dad. Miss him like mad.... 1. Always get your round, 2. Never under estimate an old fart 3. Everyone has a tale to tell 4. Behaviour and attitude, my behaviour will affect your attitude. ... And my attitude will affect your behaviour. Simples, how you are is what you get back.

Thank you ALL my brothers for the pleasure of your company and meeting you at the National, RTTW, Pilgrims summer bash and other events. Ride safe. Robbo



Cheque Presentation to Devonshire Province 2023 Festival £500 took place at the Ride for Bob. Almoner Steve Robertson (Robbo), Reuben Ayers, VP Simon Windsor (Lurch) and Treasurer Damon Hicks (Hilton). Great effort from The Pilgrims. 17:18 ✓

Portugal Chapter Update

Portugal is a small country in size, but huge in the importance of history, which has been written over the last 1,000 years.

Born perhaps by a Templar will, it discovered new worlds and brought light to the 4 corners of the world!

- There are 92 KM2 and a coastline embracing the Atlantic Ocean, with:- 1,230 km on the mainland alone.
- It also has an exclusive economic zone, with:- 1,683,000 Km2.

But it is neither frontiers nor the past that this article is about.

It is rather the happy story that makes up this Portuguese Chapter, which starts from an individual dream and is born from an indomitable will of its main founders, constituted on June 24, 2021, and made official on September 18, 2021, in the Capital of the Templars - Tomar, with the presence of several friends and brothers from across the country, as well as from Gibraltar and the honorable presence of our

Excellent friend and godfather Gregory Kirby!

The true story of this chapter cannot be conveyed or measured in Km's that we did inside and outside Portugal...

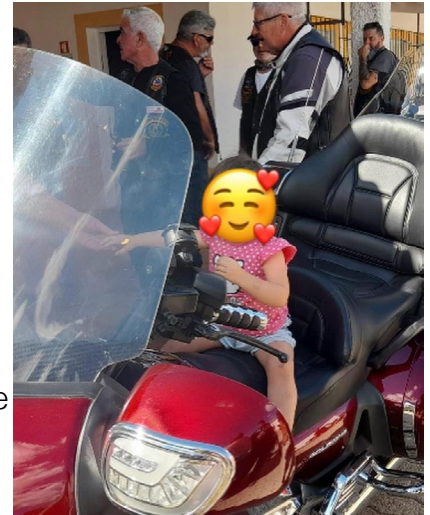
This story can only be lived...

To live in the experience, or better, in the experiences, that our associates had, in each visit that we made to the associations and foundations, which welcome the neediest.

The thrill of watching underprivileged children curl their fists on our motorcycle throttles and



laugh, nervous and surprised with the rumbling exhausts, or the confidence of those to whom life has been harsh, and still embrace us in a genuine way, or the many moments when we didn't manage to contain ourselves and had no



choice but to hide the tears that invaded our consciousness forever and ever, because there is nothing else more impacting, than to be struck by sincere humility and the feeling of common fraternity among all of us, in the contemplation of the work of the infinite in all its splendor, because beauty is not only in the beautifulness or the sensibleness, but yes, in any and every form of love!

And if any story we must tell, it's about love...!

Love that, as in the past, moved caravels



and embraced new worlds, also in our 1st year, made knights and conquerors of all of us, because despite being "young" we are motivated by a greater desire to do and give ourselves to the "other", with a pure heart and pure hands.

We are few perhaps, but still, many are the significant Km's that unite us, as the many metals raised, but infinite is the feeling of gratitude for being able to be part of this journey, in the name of regular Freemasonry and under the auspices of our Regular Grand Lodge of Portugal and the United Grand Lodge of England.

Wyvern Chapter Update

What an exciting few months in Wyvern Chapter.

We start with congratulations:



As a family, we have gained three brand new baby Wyverns; Our President, Royal and Lottie Hayward welcomed Zachary; Jordan and Ana Mould welcomed Ruby into the fold and Ben and Becca

Taylor welcomed Ellie. Massive congratulations to the families.

Harry 'Riff' Blinston became a Grandfather for the third time and Mick Blay for the first time. Congratulations to them both.

Wyverns very own Harry 'Riff' Blinston, past President and now Sergeant At Arms, was elected Vice Chairman of the South of England for the PGB.

Bro Daniel 'Tofu' Harding, our Treasurer, took the chair of Admiral Blake Lodge No 4692.



In Wyvern Chapter, we don't have Associates but we do encourage new members who have shown a commitment to joining the brotherhood.

We have two success stories already.

Adam Perkins joined Wyvern Chapter in August 2021 with a commitment to become a Mason,

at the earliest opportunity. Mayflower Lodge No 7241 is the home of the Widows Sons in the South West and Adam was Initiated in March 2022. He has shown total commitment to the Chapter and attended nearly every event. In October 2022 he was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. He was presented his back patch following his raising and promptly appointed as Road Captain.



Our second success story is of Jordan Mould, one of our latest members. He joined us in June 2022, rode with us on several ride outs and even came to the National Rally. He was Initiated into Staple Hill Lodge No 6043 meeting in South Gloucestershire.



Wyvern Chapter turned out in force to support him on this momentous occasion.

RTTW



Wyvern Chapter at RTTW this year. Great turn out again, followed by a fantastic evening in the curry house, organised by Grumpy.

Rob's Run

Some of us Wyverns had a great day out supporting Pilgrims Chapter (WSMBA Devon) at their annual charity ride, Rob's Run.

For those who may not be aware, Rob was the VP and a Founder Member of our mother Chapter, he sadly passed away in 2015 and this ride has been done, in his honour, ever since.



We only got damp 3 or 4 times during the day but, as you can see, still smiles all around.

I'm not sure how much was raised but all monies are donated to St. Luke's Hospice, a very worthy cause.

I also believe that, after the ride, some of the Pilgrims rode to the Hospice so that one of their patients could see the bikes etc.

Cracking day Pilgrims, thanks for the invite.

Wyvern Chapter last event for 2022.

Our annual pilgrimage to Bridgwater War Memorial for the Remembrance Day Parade, where we rub shoulders with local MCs, scouts and civil representatives to pay our respects to those who have fallen and those who still suffer today.



'Ay Up Me Duck from the East Midlands Chapter'

Hospital Food Boxes

The Chapter continues to donate food and toiletries for the boxes we supply into the Burton & Derby children's hospitals. These are replenished every 10 days and help parents that are staying with their child over night when there is no food available.



Harrington HRA Chapter 5098 and Fairfield Lodge 2224 have both donated £100 to the fund to keep the boxes stocked. Grumpy Perridge went along to collect one of the cheques.

Loughborough Bike Show



The Chapter had a stand at the Loughborough Bike Show in September. This was a good opportunity to let the public know who we are, both as Widows Sons & Freemasons. We spent the day chatting to the public and also cleaning a bike that will be auctioned at a later event.

Poor & Distressed German

Although he was not a mason Gabriel was in distress and we were called to help. Gabriel was staying in a Derby hotel on his way back to Germany from a Honda Rally in Bristol.



Someone had attempted to steal his bike and, in the process, dropped it and bent the handlebars. The bike was unrideable and needed fixing. Our President put out the call

for help and Grumpy was there in a flash with his trailer and the bike went off to be fixed, which would take all day. Gabriel was poor and distressed and was without funds so we cheerfully embraced that virtue we profess to admire. One of our members paid for him to stay another night in the hotel and our President arranged for £50 to be donated from the charity fund. The next day with bike fixed Gabriel was on his way back to Germany, but not before a Widows Sons sticker was slapped on his bike.

Woodland Camp



On the weekend of the 17th of September, the Chapter got away to a nice bit of woodland owned by one of our members.

The weather was great, and it was a great family affair. Mostly just sat around chilling, eating, drinking and playing games.

Brethren's Big Brunch

A Brethren's Big Brunch was held at the Acacia Centre Annesley Woodhouse by Clumber Lodge 8199 on the 30th October. This was an opportunity for an informal meet and greet and a chance for anyone thinking of joining

freemasonry to find out a bit more. It also seemed a good event for the Widows Sons to go along and support. Us bikers love a big brekky. After checking with the organizer W Bro Shaun



Hayfield to see if it was OK for us to go along we attended in good numbers, about 20 of us all told. Many of the Chapter's social events are open to our partners, friends and children and this really fitted in with the Big Brunch, which was a real family event. East Midlands are a little misrepresented and underrepresented in Nottinghamshire so increasing our exposure in the Province is important. We haven't really done a great deal in Nottinghamshire and would like to do more. We will keep in touch with Shaun as he runs a Wax & Wheels event in September which would be great to attend.

Widows Sons Support Local Preschool



Bro. John East visited Preschool 345 to present a cheque for £250 donated by the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association. Preschool 345 is a local community run preschool based in the centre of Beeston. They welcome children from 2 years, to

attend morning, afternoon or full day sessions. Preschool 345 is a charity run as a non-profit organisation that is run by volunteers made up of parents, carers and two members of the current staff. Bro John is pictured below presenting the cheque to the Manager of the Preschool, Tina McGrath and a couple of

the children. Tina says, 'We will be using the money towards building a new outdoor sandpit for the children, ready for next spring'. Bro John's Lodge, Bramcote Lodge 8750 has also donated to the fund.

Branding November 2022



Helpers Tricky and Grumpy along with brandees, Nomad, Matt, KB & Gaz travelled up to Duncarron Medieval Fort for the latest Branding

ceremony. This most secret of ceremonies was again an excellent event and declared the best of all masonic ceremonies by the brandees. The weather was damp, but the spirits were not. We thank WSS for their excellent organisation and hospitality.

Attaching a Tartan swatch to your cut.

At the Branding a few of us bought the Widows Sons Tartan. Claire Webster describes the best way to attach it to your cut.

You will need:

- A clear plastic wallet (punch pocket)
- Permanent marker pen
- A piece of iron on heavy weight interfacing / embroidery stabiliser roughly the same size as the tartan.
- Scissors
- Pins
- Sewing machine with heavy weight needle
- Thread
- Iron.

Step 1 – Place your Cut on a flat surface. Lay the plastic wallet on top of the area where you want to attach the Tartan and using the marker, trace over the exact area you wish to cover. If

your cut has any binding or is shaped in this area, make sure you are tracing inside this.

Step 2 – Iron on the interfacing/stabiliser to what will be the back of the tartan. The interfacing or stabiliser usually has a slightly shiny side, this needs to be placed down and on the fabric. You will need the iron on a moderately hot setting.

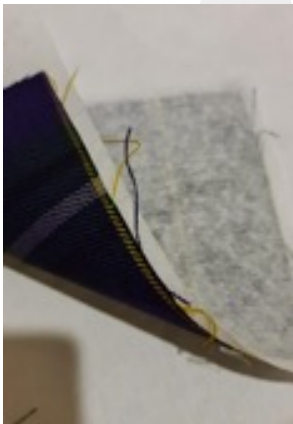
Step 3 – Turn the tartan so it is now facing upwards and lay your template over the top, pin or clip in place. (If there are any horizontal or vertical lines within the tartan, place these as you wish them to be seen. For example, if you have a vertical line, try getting this in centre).

Step 4 – Cut around your template 1 cm out from your original lines.

Step 5 – Turn the tartan so right side is facing down, fold over 1cm around the edge and press down using an iron.

Step 6 – Place tartan patch on your cut, pin or clip into place. This is the time to make any slight adjustments if it is not lining up correctly.

Step 7- Using a strong thread and heavy weight needle in your machine, sew around the edge of your tartan patch as close to the edge as you can 2-3mm. (ensuring you are using a locking



stitch when starting and finishing of or you are running a few forward and reversing stitches).

Wow, that looks great Claire, thanks for sharing this with us. (Prez).

Road Captain

So, the President has asked me to do a short piece in my new Chapter position as Road Captain.

I think he wants a piece on where we've been with some pictures but I decided on something a bit different.

So, what does a Chapter Road Captain do? I here you ask.....Do we as a Chapter need one. ... Some of will say easy.... just lead the ride and the others will follow you I WISH! My job is to get the guys there in a group, be it on the bikes, in the car or even on the train.

My job is to get the guys there in a group, be it on the bikes, in the car or even on the train.



Sounds easy I hear you say. Sometimes getting 2 bikes across a town or city is a challenge let alone 25-30

This is how my planning works: First I need a destination a date and a time....No good planning a Saturday afternoon ride when we're riding on a Sunday morning.

Next, I then need to find out whether we have any 125cc riders coming on the ride, yes we have a couple of Bad Pennies who are really keen and can't wait to be patched and are really eager for a ride out with us. Can we get there without using a Motorway? Is it too far for a 125cc too travel, no use planning a 400 mile trip to Ace Café on A roads with average speed of 35 mph. Are we meeting another Chapter, do we need to be somewhere at a set time. All these things come into my planning.

So it's then either down to local knowledge and my days as a truck driver come in handy here, or a couple of hrs. sat in front of the PC looking on google maps. Whichever way I plan it, it's my responsibility to know the route and to use roads that are not only interesting but will get us there safely and in a timely manner.

So come the day of the ride, I have a written route usually taped onto my screen, but not always, depends if I know the route really well. I have it in my Sat Nav and I have Google running on my phone Blue Toothed to my comms. system in the helmet. We've already by this time set a meeting time and a 'kick stands time' AND I STICK TO IT. If the group WHATSAPP Message say we leave @ 09:30, we leave @09:30. I complete my paperwork, collect all the names and phone numbers of those participating; I also collect an ICE number (IN CASE of EMERGENCY) for someone at home, just in case the unthinkable happens. We have a short briefing on the basic route, informing the guys of planned fuel stops, and some of us need frequent 'comfort' stops. I explain to any new riders how we ride using SECOND MAN DROP OFF, (details of SMDO can be found on Widows Sons Face Book Page under Docs). We also use the Life360 tracker app so we can see where everyone is. We have a couple of our ladies who sometimes join

us and they don't ride but bring the family in the car, so I need to liaise with these members as to ETAs for any coffee or fuel stops on the way and the ETA at our destination and where we will be parking. On a recent trip to London we even planned in the meeting point for the couple traveling down on the train to join us.

All Sounds fairly easywell sometimes it is ...other days things can, and do go horribly wrong.

This year as a chapter we've had probably had 10 or 12 rides, some short, some longer, most have gone reasonably well. We recently had an eventful ride to Skegness. We stopped for fuel halfway, all pulled into forecourt and all those needing fuel, filled up. A couple of minutes after leaving the petrol station a rider from the back of the group (not the main back marker) pulled alongside me and indicated that one of the guys bikes wouldn't start. So I pulled into the next layby and waited ...NO showwrongly I told the group to wait and I would nip back down to the petrol station and look for him and sort out any recovery. However, the member had started his bike and chased after us BUT took a left turning before the layby. We didn't see him again until 60 miles later in Skegness. However DUE TO GOING BACK AND FORTH THE sat nav got a bit confused and very soon turned us right instead of left, to cut a long story short we ended up going round in a big circle adding 35 miles onto our journey due to Grumpy's decision to go and look for someone.

LESSON LEARNT - SEND SOMEONE ELSE.... DELIGATE!!!

Over the last 7 or 8 months I've lead a couple of rides to London, trips to Skegness & Mablethorpe, numerous rides around our area.....Yes we've had a couple of detours due to silly errors, we've had people park in different car parks in the same town. Have we got separated on route or lost anyone who didn't get to the destination? NO. So does having a Road Captain / Ride leader who uses a recognised system of group riding work. YES is my answer.

Next issue

The Spring issue of **THE Son** will be published on 1st March 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 **Wednesday 15th February** as this impacts publication dates!

Please all be safe, ride safe and keep well.



Scan me on your Phone



Don't forget the Widows Sons of Great Britain private Facebook page is open to all patched members and can be reached at:

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



Son