THE Son

Issue 2
Summer 2021

Brethren, welcome to issue two of "***The SON***", from the feedback I have received regarding our first edition it appears to have been a great success,

and provides a lot of visibility of our activities to our members across the country. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed material to the newsletter, and a special thanks to Clive Andrews-Lewis and Phil Meynell for editing and spell checking what is a very professional newsletter which we can all enjoy and share with friends and family with great pride.

If the governments roadmap is working then we should be reaching the point that we can now look to getting together finally in larger numbers and enjoying the Brotherhood we have all been missing since the outbreak of this awful pandemic. It's strange I have not missed pubs, or even lodge meetings, but what I am looking forward to the most is simply standing with good friend with a beer in hand talking rubbish, and simply enjoying life with good people, to which end I encourage you all to grab what is left of the year, and re-engage with your fellow Widows Sons around the country.

Sadly, but understandably The Yorkshire chapter who were due to host the national rally this year, have decided to cancel, as the date was still very close to the end of the road map restrictions, and any delay to the opening up date would seriously jeopardize attendance. As a consequence next years rally will be hosted by the Durham Chapter on the weekend of the 29/30th July 2022, and Yorkshire will host in 2023. On a more positive note, in an attempt to have some form of national gathering, a small group of us, including myself have put together the "Mad Panic Rally" which will be in County Durham on the 6/7th August, details of which are in this newsletter, please try your best to attend, and lets have a party to remember. We appreciate there is a risk to putting this event on but if COVID controls change we will simply refund everyone's ticket money.

Just like in Masonry, our membership is far from linear, we have members who join for a variety of different reasons, and ride all different types of bikes, we have some who simply want to go on the odd ride out, others more interested in supporting charity, and others who want the whole bike club culture and Brotherhood. The great thing about our organization is all of our members no matter what their reasons for joining have a place in it, and can enjoy their membership in any way they prefer. What is important now is that whatever your reasons for joining, now is the time to pull together to revitalise your membership and activities with fellow Widows Sons. The success of our association stems from a good strong membership, we have in the past raised huge sums for charity, this was no accident, and was produced by a strong membership core, which may have become diluted through lockdown, so lets regroup-restart-recover and have fun.

Finally I want to pay a massive tribute to W. Bro Greg Kirby our Vice Chairman, who works tirelessly in the background, and is responsible for the recent developments in the Widows Sons and our newest chapters not only here in the UK, but also in Gibraltar. He is a huge asset to our association, and we are truly lucky to have him in the PGB.

Enjoy the good weather and ride safe, and I hope to see you all at our "Mad Panic Rally" in August

Onwards and Upwards

W. Bro Peter Younger
National Chairman

Caption competition

Please email your suggestions with your name and chapter to:
wsmbanews@gmail.com

Spot the difference...

(there are 5!)

Your Spring Issue Captions:

“Social distancing at its best”

W. Bro Trevor Hutcheson
(aka *Claret*)
Charity Captain
Southern Chapter

“Mum: Well, I told you to eat all your greens”

Robbo
Almoner
Pilgrims Chapter

THE Son is edited by W. Bro Phil Meynell
Please send submissions (in plain text with attached pictures wherever possible) by email to:
wsmbanews@gmail.com

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

Enjoy!!

Philip Meynell (aka Animal)

“Masons unmasked”

A set of questions to get to know our members.

Name: Peter Edwards.

Which WS chapter are you in: East Midlands.

When did you join Masonry: I was initiated in December 2014.

Out of all of your bikes, which has been your favourite: My Suzuki GSX 750ES purchased 1 April 1989, stolen and cut up in 2011. One thief not prosecuted and one got 16 weeks prison.

What has been your most memorable moment in Freemasonry: Becoming 8247 Cantelupe Lodge Secretary. Not being a founder member of Derbyshire Motorcycle Lodge No. 9950 for 3 years.

(Ed: Grand Lodge Rules mean you have to have been a Master Mason for three years to become a founder of a lodge).

What has been your most memorable moment in the Widows Sons: Getting stuck in a field delivering the pig roaster to the Greyhound and being rescued by Grumpy JP driving a borrowed mini digger to pull me out. Breakfasts are good too!

How long have you been riding motorbikes: 58 years. I got my first motorbike when I was 12, a 98cc Sun large wheel 2 speed scooter costing £2 10 shillings (50p) which I only ever rode on the highway to get off road! About twice a week for ½ mile uphill. I coasted down on the footpath to get home. I lived near an abandoned US base.

Pineapple on pizzas yes or no? Yes maybe depends on other toppings.

What is the best country you have visited and why*:* Latvia in 2016 and 2018 visiting their JAWA Club Rallies. Lovely caring, helpful people and bike crazy despite being very poor. They promoted me to President of the JAWA CZ Owners Club GB so I got a presentation the same as the other club presidents in attendance.

What is your favourite degree in craft masonry and why: First. It holds so much promise and pleasure for the new member.

What is your favourite higher order in Masonry: Not sure - don’t think the KT regalia would suit me!

What is your favourite type of music: No favourite will dance to anything.

Apart from masonry and the WS what other past time do you enjoy: I chair a local charity which I worked for from 2002 to 2014 and am a member of a number of target shooting clubs, bike clubs and car clubs.

Favourite sweets: Jelly Babies and Liquorice Allsorts equally.

Favourite drink: Czech lager, very, very closely followed by Scotch. And anything FREE.

What’s the one thing you wish you could do: Land an aircraft (safely).

What’s the one thing you wish you didn’t have to do: Pay income tax.

If you had one positive message, what would it be: Be caring and always true to yourself.

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

Have you considered your next step in Freemasonry? Three stories about Royal Arch

Having had the privilege of seeing the Son before most people, I have read the article (at least 8 times actually) on The Constitutional Chapter on Page 8, and what a great idea and success it seems to have been. It set me thinking about rescuing (if that's the correct term) or is it joining "en mass" a Derbyshire Royal Arch Chapter that is in need of members.

- Are you interested in a (mainly) Widows Sons Royal Arch Chapter in the Province of Derbyshire?
- I'm just canvassing members of the Widows Sons at the moment BUT Is that something anyone would be interested in?
- What are your thoughts?
- Maybe it's a long term plan, maybe we are needed sooner!
- The Grand Superintendent of Derbyshire is not averse to the idea - I've asked him!

Click here to get in touch and let me know your thoughts

Comp. Philip Meynell (Animal)

After presenting my WS lecture "from 3 degrees to 2 wheels" at a light blue conference in 2016 I was approached and asked if we were interested in having our own RA Chapter. We said of course and myself and the Past Provincial 3rd Grand Principle went to see Skelmersdale and Waterloo Chapter in Southport who were about to close.

They were very receptive so a team was assembled to visit and we all joined. Following some negotiations we relocated to Bryn Masonic Hall and now meeting on 3rd Saturdays in May and September. Membership was down to 9 as we joined, now approaching 50 members. We have a waiting list of exaltees. Name was changed from 1380 Skelmersdale and Waterloo to **1380 The Biker's Chapter** in 2019. The future is bright !!!

https://freemasonrymatters.co.uk/latest-news-freemasonry/widows-sons-bikers-to-save-historic-skelmersdale-waterloo-chapter-no-1380/

E. Comp. Andrew Baxendale (Baxi)

Following the West Midlands' Chapter success in rescuing **Legge Lodge 2784** as a biking Lodge a few years ago, and chatting over a brew with Bro Ian Cole, he mentioned that there was a Chapter in similar circumstances who had approached him and had asked if there was interest in doing the same for a Royal Arch Chapter.

Of course there was interest!

Ian put me in touch with Wayne Lutton, and in July 2020 we opened a dialogue with him and E. Comp Phil Baker who was the current MEZ of **Burslem Chapter No. 98**. Things progressed rapidly - Phil is a Biker with a Ducati 900SS in his garage that needs recomissioning, and before we knew it, we had decided on a new Venue (Chase Golf Club in Penkridge, Staffs), and an amended diary to allow for Saturday meetings.

We have a new (motorcycle and Potteries themed) Banner designed and in production - RA banners being an unusual thing in Staffordshire we will be having Province dedicate it for us very soon, watch this space!

http://www.burslemchapter98.org.uk/

E. Comp. Clive Andrews-Lewis (Clivey)

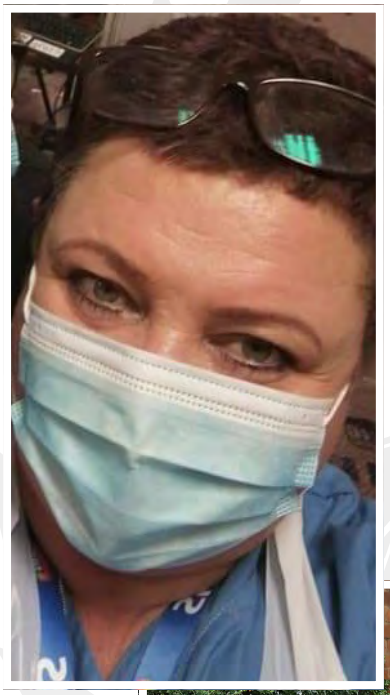
We have mail!

Hi,

I am a Widows Son and this is my partner Linsie Saul WS West Midlands Bad Penny road name Lou and a hardworking NHS Community Nurse. Working hard all through the lock-down and now giving the Covid Vacines in her spare time.

Regards

W. Bro Tony Greenshields
(aka *Stampsy*)
West Midlands Chapter
Legge Lodge Staffs



Hi Brothers,
I've had a glimpse at the Son, looks fantastic , having worked everyday of the pandemic so far leading an ambulance service, I can't tell you what a great 10 minute relief the publication was. (***Thank you but please read slower – Ed***)
Please receive this email as a huge pat on the back from me, a huge thank you from a Brother that enjoyed the results of your efforts .
Thank you !!

Bro Rich Bell
(aka *Dinger*)
West Midlands Chapter
Consultant Paramedic
Group Clinical Operations Director

Good morning Brethren,

As a newly entered apprentice with **Legge Lodge No. 2784** (not yet a Widows Son yet, but a "Bad Penny") I must say it's nice to see some activities and articles about other lodges, keep up the good work.

Bro John Hammond
(aka *TT*)
West Midlands Chapter
Bloodbiker
Legge Lodge Staffs

Official WS Regalia

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

Contact me by email for prices and stock:

martin.cargill@live.co.uk

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

“Masons unmasked”

A set of questions to get to know our members.

Name: Clive Andrews-Lewis (Clivey)

Which WS chapter are you in: West Midlands

When did you join Masonry: I was initiated into St Swithuns Lodge No. 4795 (Hants and Isle of Wight) on 20th May 2004

Out of all of your bikes, which has been your favourite: “Stormy” - my VTR1000 Firestorm

What has been your most memorable moment in Freemasonry: Grief - lots, every time I’ve gone into the Chair, being JD for my Twin Brothers initiation...

What has been your most memorable moment in the Widows Sons: Being part of the team that founded West Mids, and my subsequent term as President.

What is your favourite route for a ride out: A272 - Hampshire to Sussex usually ending up at Brighton.

How long have you been riding motorbikes: Years! I passed my test on a GP100 in 1979, have hardly been off bikes since.

Pineapple on pizzas yes or no? Yeah, why not - Anchovies too...

What is the best country you have visited and why*:* Ibiza - not because I am a “clubber” (but have had my moments) - mainly because it’s such a magical Island - missed going last year, looks like will be cancelled this year - but I will be back to Cala Llonga as soon as I can.

What is your favourite degree in craft masonry and why: First Degree - everyones most memorable ceremony - and it’s such a joy to deliver and put real meaning into it!

What is your favourite type of music: Anything but Jazz - I love all sorts, I am a bit of a Hi-Fi geek (funds permitting)

Apart from masonry and the WS what other past time do you enjoy: I’m mid restoring a 1973 GT550K, I’m doing my IAM course - but that’s been messed up by the lockdown (and 40 years of bad habits to unlearn). I’m a fairly decent amateur photographer, and despite Print & Design being my day job - I do like to tinker with Graphics, Design, T-Shirts etc...

How do you relax after a rough day: Gin & Tonic or a cold Lager...

Favourite sweets: Fruit Pastilles - though I need to watch the Sugar being T2 diabetic. Used to love Jelly Babies, but struggle now as I virtually lived on them for 10 days in Hospital following an accident - it’s funny how Morphine messes your sense of taste up.

Favourite drink: Coffee (full fat and decaff), the afformentioned Gin, a “Banana Cow” (Banana Milk)

What’s the one thing you wish you could do: Touch type and sing (not necessarily together)

What’s the one thing you wish you didn’t have to do: I’m happy with my lot - I don’t really do things I don’t want to - I would just try and change the situation instead.

If you had one positive message, what would it be: A little Haiku for you:

Chaos reigns within
Reflect, relax and reboot
Order will return...

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

Constitutional Royal Arch Chapter No. 55

Constitutional Chapter No. 55 had resisted handing its charter back three times. No candidates for 17 years and a dwindling membership signalled the inevitable. A sad end for a chapter consecrated in 1874. E. Comp Michael Longley was the most vocal in fighting to stay on the register, flying down from Scotland to the meetings to voice his objections to handing back the charter. Their plight came to the attention of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association who were keen to start a Holy Royal Arch Chapter in the Metropolitan area as a continuance of their masonry and biking enthusiasm. As no new chapters are being consecrated in our area, we had to look for a failing chapter that would be happy to be taken over. A quick decision was made by the old guard, represented by E. Comp John Thurley and E. Comp Norman Branson and the newbies represented by E. Comp Gregory Kirby and Companion Gavin Crickett, to embrace this initiative and a group of Widows Sons joined last September to swell their ranks from 12 to 23 full members in one meeting. Gavin had been tipped off by E. Comp Nick Jenkins, the chapter Visiting Officer, to reach out. We believe he is delighted we did too.

At the Installation meeting in February the offices of the **Constitutional Chapter No. 55** were filled by the joining members from the Widows Sons MBA. Roll on to the April meeting, we faced our first ceremony with trepidation. The first Exaltation for 17 years and two days to go we had no DC and a very inexperienced PS, so needed some support. Step up E. Comp Steve Hyland of the recently formed Metropolitan Royal Arch Emergency Ritual Team who managed within 48 hours to produce two volunteers: E. Comp Jeff Hough and E. Comp Wayne Hirst. Jeff quickly took control of proceedings as acting DC, and Wayne rolled his sleeves up to the role of PS. With no opportunity of a regular COI, nor the opportunity to rehearse prior, we set off as a “team” to Exalt Bro Daniel Swain. It was obvious from the start that the ceremony was going well. No books, no prompts, just everyone dropping into their respective roles to deliver a first-class ceremony for Brother Dan. Yes, we swapped roles around to deliver the ritual, drawing on the experience where required, and then resumed our respective offices to close. A strategy we intend to encourage so as to give opportunity for party pieces to be delivered by enthusiastic members. We also intend to draw on the option of splitting up large chunks of Domatic ritual to help the newer members balance their family life and livelihoods with their masonic commitments.

The festive board banter is where the merger of the old guard and the newbies came to the fore. It is often said that mergers don’t work as the original members don’t bond with the newbies. Nothing could be further from the truth as witnessed at the Freemasons Arms that night. Both sides offering ideas and suggestions on the way forward, including plotting to support the Constitutional Lodge Ladies Night as well, in order to reach out to them that they now have a chapter to be proud of, pledging two tables of ten. Brother Dan, now a companion, at his response to his toast commented how well he felt everything went, despite not having a clue what was going on, but was truly grateful for the experience and effort of the Companions involved. The common glue was the love of motorcycles shared by riders and non-riders alike, swapping anecdotes and reliving memories. For the first time in a long time, I for one wished the evening didn’t have to end.

During the course of the festive board, E. Comp Jeff studied the summons and realised that we did not have a DC at all. He thought he was just helping out. His realisation soon turned to ” I am now

your DC where is a form?" How good was that. Masonic protocol during the festive board was followed with due respect, but in between the camaraderie came through in spades. Raffles and alms collections have now been reintroduced so we can play our part in the great scheme of Masonic giving.

From teetering on the edge of extinction, the Chapter is now busy with a double Exaltation in September and two candidates in the pipeline for April 2020 already scheduled. Our regular meetings are held on the fourth Friday in February (Installation), April and September in each year. We don't intend to rest on our laurels and would welcome Companions that want to be in a dynamic Chapter under Metropolitan Grand Chapter, that delivers its ritual, and balances life, laughter, love of motorcycles to ensure masonry is fun.

For more information please contact the Scribe E Companion Francesco Grande scribe@wsse.uk

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

Ed: This is so heart warming to read

6 Motivated Masons...

COVID 19 limited, but didn't stop, the local Widows Sons members, jumping on their eclectic mix of machines, and all wearing a big smile as they headed to the Snack wagon on the A23 (west bound) by The Newmarket for a 10:30 hrs brunch, where bacon butties beat yoghurt, fruit and muesli hands down.

Six motivated masons, dressed in black shared each other's company and the ensuing banter that followed. We then headed in to a busy Brighton with Treasurer, W. Bro David Oakenfold leading and VP, W. Bro Karl Hopper-Young bring up the rear from the middle! Bro's Ray Collins, Paul Sorrell, Rob Daniels and our designated representative for the day.

W. Bro Lee Norman (Ninja), navigated skilfully through our great city to our target destination the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital.
We unloaded from the bikes over 100 eggs,

soft toys for babies and dairy free eggs, then headed off to reception to meet Lead Nurse, Sian Steward, who was overwhelmed. We socially distanced ourselves, unravelled our banner and W. Bro Lee Norman presented an Amazon voucher for the Children's play team of £250. The hospital were very grateful indeed.

Passers by asked who we were and we promoted our wonderful work as Sussex Masons who also happen to travel on two wheels. We took on board more tea at the WRVS canteen, before heading back to our families.

The day was enjoyed by all mixing charitable work with pleasure, a lot of fun, banter and six people that little bit closer. More importantly some very happy children and a Hospital whose staff have shared amongst each other the great work we do.

W. Bro Karl Hopper-Young
(aka *Black rat*)
South East Chapter

West Mids Chapter Roundup

Things are looking good for West Mids, we have had a few Bad Pennies join us, and have some prospective full members as Bad pennies too until Lockdown eases and Legge Lodge can initiate, pass and raise them.

We had a small, legal and sensibly socially distanced ride in April, staging group departures and taking in Blithfield Reservoir and the K1 Cafe. We can't wait for a proper group ride though, which will be **May 22nd** when we have a group of 30 going to the National Memorial Arboretum when our President, Ian will be presenting of some of the cheques as we disperse the last of the funds from the National Rally.

Thanks must also go to Legge Almoner W. Bro Les Hanson who has worked tirelessly to raise MCF assistance for W. Bro Andy Sawyer's daughter (Katie), and then to W. Bro Graham Sharrard who working with Les raised last minute funding to enable Katie to have an urgent surgical assesment to allow the operation to continue. Katie has now had a very successful op, and has all our best wishes for a great recovery!

W. Bro Clive Andrews-Lewis
(aka *Clivey*)
Secretary
West Midlands Chapter

Durham Chapter Roundup

Here are a few photos of this years Easter Egg run.

Last year was completely cancelled so we wanted to avoid that this year and came up with a modified plan. As it was not possible to organise a mass ride with the usual many, many motorcycles, this year we got two small groups together to visit both Durham and Darlington hospitals in order to deliver the eggs for children patients.

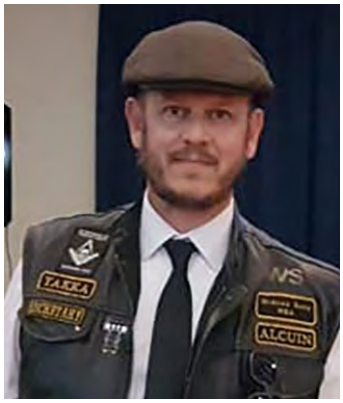
Excellent planning by Tony Hudspith and Andy Bridger

W. Bro Graham Dockrill
(aka *Dock*)
Secretary
Durham Chapter

Ridings Chapter Roundup

We started our charity fundraising early this year with the sale of the Widows Sons MBA embroidered lodge gloves. We received 127 orders in total, from multiple chapters, raising £800 for our charity pot.

Thanks for your orders Brethren, we'll organise a second batch later in the year for those of you who missed out.



Ridings Chapter have taken advantage of the association's fantastic web hosting offer, being the first to create and upload our website to the ".wsmba" domain. Deal of the century at only £10 per year!!

Now on episode 5, "Ridecast" continues to attract more listeners. With enough interest we can eventually monetise in order to raise more cash for our charity pot!

Two new members already this year, with Brother "Bandit" (formerly Suppository) transferring in from Beda Chapter, and Brother "Jag" from York who has been riding with us since last summer!

W. Bro Matt Duffy
(aka *Yakka*)
President
Ridings Chapter

Ode to Hoggy Bridger

This lockdown has caused misery
Like we're all in a bad dream
But our brother Hoggy Bridger
Thought he'd take one for the team

"I'd do deeds for charity"
We've often heard it said
But Hoggy went one further
And waxed his nose and head

The sight of Hoggy waxed up
Would make a grown man scream
Just pop a candle in his mouth
And we're set for Halloween

The nose job was commencing
Yanked out without a care
It must have been deep rooted
"Cause that looks like pubic hair"

His head they started peeling
To see it caused great mirth

If you'd heard Hoggy screaming
You would have swore he's giving birth

Hoggy's asked for other challenges
He'll take them on the chin
But if you need someone to fix it up
For Gods sake don't ask Jim!

Surrey Chapter Roundup

In edition 1 of the SON Prep School gave an update on the SE intention to create further Chapters and asked me if I would help with the Surrey group, little did I know where that journey would be taking me, perhaps I should have known because the last time Prep School suggested I might like to join a RA Chapter "Constitutional 55" that was in need of support little did I know that on day one I would be 3rd Principal and here I am 1st Principal 2nd year in seat.

So Surrey is on the map and things are rolling forwards nicely, there already was a core from SE wanting to see this happen and after the approach by me to the Provincial Grand Master respectfully letting his team know of our aspirations I duly received back enthusiastic support with one caveat, I had to join a province lodge, Noel Motorcycling lodge 2444 here I come, That gave us the green light to form a team.

Due Diligence then followed, and the results are we have the officers in place for our first year, joining members of the WS knocking on the door, masons and cornerstones onboard and more showing interest in becoming part of the team which is a great start. "From small acorns grow mighty oaks"

Suppose I ought to introduce myself, already known to some and I am sure in time others to.

Dean "BlackBeard" Johns – Jack Daniels Drinking, Biking Brother, Railwayman, Freemason, Father, and now humbled & honoured to be a President of the WSMBA. Some WS history I started in the South West Chapter, then Iceni, and finally SE all due to work & life circumstances and knew if I kept moving around Chapters I would eventually find a home.

The Surrey Officers: VP - Steve "Mr Miagi" Dixon / Secretary - Martin "Chef" Fowler / Treasurer - Andrea "Godfather" Gabrielli / Road Captain - Ian "Vampire" Price, a solid team to lead the way and build on our foundations.

Whilst we are in troubled times and during the period before getting our Charter our now VP organised a rule of 6 charity ride on Easter Saturday to a local Hospice called Christopher's, part of the Shooting Stars charity that does amazing work with children with terminal care needs. Over 100 eggs, £50 worth of art & craft items donated on the day, and I even put my Charity officers cap on and willingly fleeced the 6 of us for £120 for a future donation. Thank you, Steve D, Martin W, Cameron A, Shaun H & Ian P for attending. Thanks also to Dylan S & Jim R for turning up to see us off at the start point.

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

Parisi Chapter Roundup

2020 was a strange year by anyone's standards and yet from it was born a brand new chapter.

Years ago the North & East Ridings of Yorkshire had a Widows Sons chapter all of its own and was ticking along quite nicely, the West Ridings wasn't doing as well and so the North & East pulled the West into the fold on the understanding that once the West was strong enough to stand alone then the North & East would again go back to being a Provincial Chapter as is desired by the WSMBA.

We became The Parisi Chapter on the 1st of August 2020, this day is also a special one for Yorkshire folk as they will no doubt tell you that it's Yorkshire Day.

We celebrated this day at the Meet the Neighbours event, which was the second annual event of its kind, held at Cropton near Pickering, an old Parisi strong hold.

A couple of weeks later we had a mass patching in at a significant site close to Cropton that has the old earth workings very evident to all.

Due to the fact that we are a brand new chapter and that most of the last few months have been to say the least very restricted in movements we haven't really been able to raise any money for charity, and with the National Rally being shared with our friends in the Ridings Chapter we again have had a hit on potential funds, however in winter we learned of a blood biker who had a spill on a road in our area and whilst he was not hurt his bike did need repairs, over night we raised £200.00 towards the repairs and this was dispatched without delay.

We are planning another 'meet the neighbours' at Cropton in August, all will be welcome, it's a chilled out weekend, camping, pub, brewery, and with no bands we have to make our own entertainment, what better way to get to meet friends old and new.

W. Bro Andy Hunn
(aka *Soul Man*)
President
Parisi Chapter

RIDE CAST

Join Gremlin, Pigpen & Yakka as they talk Motorcycles and Masonry in the Ridings Chapter podcast!

Click here to visit

South East Chapter Roundup

South East Chapter has been making the most of the opportunity to create rides of up to 6 to keep us out on the road whilst observing the current guidelines. We even managed to pull off three Easter Egg Runs in Surrey, Sussex and Gibraltar. A big thank you to the teams of 6 that arranged everything and kept us in good standing in the community, and without bringing masonry into disrepute. Take a bow Brothers Dean Johns, Karl Hopper-Young and Darren Laguea. Natter Nights have been replaced by Zoom meetings but it is not the same as a meet in a public house, so roll on opening up the pubs. Bigger and bolder rides are now being planned as the rules are relaxing as we want to exploit our connections to France, Spain Portugal and Gibraltar. During the last few months we have been mentoring our qualifying chapter members to apply for charters for Surrey and Gibraltar. The PGM for Surrey, R.W Bro Ian Chandler, was very supportive of the Primus President's, Dean Johns (Blackbeard), application and will be rewarded by a few more Widows Sons applying to join Noel Surrey Motorcycle Lodge No 244 meeting at Surbiton. Hopefully we can also engage with the Province's Warlingham Fair again as we have done in the past. And likewise with the District Grand Master for Gibraltar, R.W Bro Alfred Ryan. He too was very supportive of the Primus President, Darren Laguea's, application acknowledging the positive contribution the WS make to masonry, and since the charter was granted has expressed his delight and continued support. Both were chartered on St George's Day so a double celebration in the years to come. We also have members in Portugal who are keen to get chartered and are now sounding out the support of their Grand Master. South East is in Region 8 and has maintained its links with the other members by creating a Whatsapp Group. With our hat in the ring to host the first Region Rally it would be good to get a firm date to work to.

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

Wyvern Chapter Roundup

The first few months of 2021 have been mainly used to plan events and rides for when we're allowed out again, with the occasional trip out to assist brethren in need.

We have 16 full members and a growing number waiting to join us once lockdown is over. Recently holding a ride-out to Cheddar Gorge, where a total of five potential candidates joined us for the ride, two of which aren't actually masons as yet so, as well as becoming Widows Sons at some point, they will also become additions to our fraternity.

We are looking forward to holding a birthday BBQ, hosted by the President of Wyvern, at the end of May with our AGM scheduled to take place on 31st July.

We have also created a line of communication with the other Chapters in our Region and have high hopes for rides and rallies in the coming years where brethren from Wyvern, Pilgrims, Stonecutters and Celtic Knights can enjoy rides together more frequently.

The website for Wyvern is well under way and the Province of Somerset has kindly agreed to create a microsite for us to be able to 'advertise' events and rides that we're attending. There is also a 'contact' facility where brethren and lodges can contact us, should they wish to.

All in all, despite lockdown, it's been a busy few months and, now that things are starting to relax a little, it will be good to get out and about and visit other Chapters and lodges once again.

W. Bro Harry Blinston
(aka *Riff*)
President
Wyvern Chapter

Northumbria Chapter Roundup

Throughout the pandemic, a number of masonic buildings in Northumberland have provided food to the frail and elderly throughout the Province. A number of members of the Northumbria chapter have been recognised for their services to the community by being presented with certificates of commendation by the Provincial Grand Master W Bro Ian Craigs. Mike Ewart, George Curry Kevin Jordan and Al Mills all received their certificates from the PGM this month, recognizing their continued commitment throughout the pandemic delivering hot meals near and far.

The chapter has a healthy Associates scheme, which is acting as a successful pathway into Masonry. Our members are really looking forward to getting back into the lodge, as we have a long waiting list of candidates to initiate, as well as others waiting to be passed and raised, all of whom are bikers eagerly waiting to become fully fledged Widows Sons.

Plans are underway to get a number of social events arranged such as the annual barbeque, and also the annual classic car and bike show which the members host at the Newcastle Dog and Cat shelter, which raises funds for the shelter and also helps to rehome a large number of animals. A number of our members will be attending the "Meet the Neighbours" event hosted by WS Parisi and also attending the Mad Panic Rally in Durham on August 6th, and look forward to seeing many WS members there.

W. Bro Peter Younger
Northumbria Chapter

Who and where

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

Chapter	Provinces covered	Website/email (clickable)
Anglia	Anglia, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk	
Beda	Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire	https://bedachapterwsmba.co.uk
Cheshire	Cheshire	http://www.cwsmba.org.uk/
Cornwall (St Piran)	Cornwall	info@cornwall.wsmba.uk https://cornwall.wsmba.uk/
Cumbria	Cumberland & Westmorland	
Durham	Durham	https://www.dmmwidowssons.org/
East Kent	East Kent	https://widows-sonseastkent.com/
East Midlands	Derbyshire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Nottinghamshire	wsmba.eastmidlands@gmail.com
Guernsey	Guernsey & Alderney	Find us on Facebook (click here)
Iceni	Essex, Hertfordshire, Metropolitan	https://271499.8b.io/
Ireland	Northern Ireland and Eire	https://www.widowssonsireland.co.uk/
Lincoln	Lincolnshire	Find us on Facebook (click here)
Norfolk	Norfolk	http://www.widowssons-norfolk.co.uk/
North Wales	North Wales	https://widowssons.wales/
North West	East Lancashire, West Lancashire	http://northwestchapter.com/
Northumberland	Northumberland	http://www.wsmban.com/
Parisi	Yorkshire, North & East Ridings	http://www.parisichapter.co.uk/
Pilgrims	Devon	ws.pilgrims.20@gmail.com
Ridings	Yorkshire, West Riding	https://www.ridings.wsmba.uk/
Scotland	Covering Scottish regions	https://widows-sons-scotland.com/
Shires	Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Middlesex, Oxfordshire	ws.mba.shires@gmail.com
South East	East & West Sussex, 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
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/

National Website	**https://widowssons.org.uk/**

East Kent Chapter Roundup

Well, there finally seems to be light at the end of the tunnel.

The Easter Egg run which was managed in line with C-19 restrictions is usually a big event for the WSEK chapter. However, it was nice just to get out riding as a small group, and of course it was lovely to see the recipients of the Easter Eggs at Strode Park, happy and smiling albeit from behind glass and wearing PPE!

We have a party to look forward to, The Lockdown Breakout Party. It is due to take place on the 17th of July if anyone would like to attend, then please contact me for details: secretary@widows-sonseastkent.com

It was sad to hear the National Rally has been postponed yet again – hardly surprising given the current climate. It has not deterred a sizable group of us using the time to head on out and take a 4-day jaunt around the UK.

I do not think we are completely sure as to where we are going but needless to say it will be a fun packed roller coaster ride if judged by previous rideout's!

A couple of the saner members decided on a little jolly to the South Coast last weekend – Beachy Head to be exact! This turned into a tour de force of good, bad, and indecent weather. Ranging from Sleet to rain, and then back to glorious sunshine; for our more Northerly brothers it only goes to show that we do get 'bad' weather in the South East, albeit on roads lined with palm trees…

Our virtual Natter Nights continue to be a great success, ably ran by our VP (3G) it seems so long ago now that we all sat down together and had a proper NN, most will have forgotten just how good they were at getting us together, chewing over the fat and talking the usual 'biker' drivel – roll on June!

Finally, our membership officer (aka Organist) has been very busy. We have had 2 new members join, and another cornerstone within the past month, things appear to be on the up – good man keep up the good work!

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

The "Knowledge"

A series of occasional riding tips...

This month from Michael "Gunny" O'Meara

Fit to Ride? Keeping your bike safe doesn't always mean major surgery. A quick pre-ride check every day will help keep you safe and may avoid the need for expensive repair bills. To make sure you don't miss anything, use the following mnemonic:

P.O.W.D.D.E.R.S.S

- Petrol - Is there enough for the journey?
- Oil - Check the oil to make sure it's at the correct level (check the other fluids brake/clutch etc)
- Water - Check the level if you have a water cooled bike.
- Damage/Drive –Do a visual check of the chain and lube if required. Shaft drive – check for leaks
- Electrics – Check the lights, indicators, and hazards if fitted
- Rubber - Check the tyres, wheels, throttle grip, footrest rubbers etc are all in good working order
- Steering/Suspension - Make sure everything is working smoothly, check the dampers are working, check the brake levers and their action

If the bike is ready to go, don't forget to check your kit, helmet and visor too.

The list is by no means exhaustive, but should be carried out regularly and especially before long rides. Last but by no means least consider a final **S** for 'Self'. Ask yourself: am I fit to ride? We all to often only concern ourselves with our bike and sometimes neglect to think about ourselves.

I.A.M.S.A.F.E.

- Illness - Do I have an illness or symptoms that might affect my ability to drive?
- Attitude - How do I feel about this journey? Am I fully focussed on the driving task? What human factors do I need to take account of?
- Medication - Am I taking any medication that might affect my performance?
- Sleep - Am I suffering from lack of sleep / fatigue?
- Alcohol - Have I had a drink? Am I still affected by alcohol?
- Food - Am I hungry or thirsty? Could low blood sugar or dehydration affect my judgement
- Emotion - Am I angry, depressed or stressed? Could this lead me to take risks?

So what makes a good rider?

- Critical and honest self-awareness and understanding of your personal characteristics, attitudes and behaviour, which are necessary for safe driving
- Taking action to keep identified risks to a minimum
- Awareness of your own limitations and those of the vehicle and the road
- Awareness of the risks inherent in a particular road and traffic situations
- Concentration and good observation
- Continuously matching the vehicle's direction and speed to the changing conditions
- Skillful use of vehicle controls

The way you ride and conduct yourself on the road positively influences reciprocal behaviour from other motorists.

For example, a raised hand to thank someone for letting you pass or to apologise for making an error significantly reduces any ill will and increases a co-operative 'Flow' of traffic.

Take a 'Big Picture' view to reduce any feelings which can arise from the idea that your journey is in some way a priority

Your vulnerability as a Rider

Most Rider think they are both safer and more skillful than the average driver - but we cannot all be right. In 2 out of 3 collisions human error is a cause. Riding safely is not an add-on extra - it must be built into the way you ride.

What are the commonest causes of collisions?

The commonest recorded causes of collisions in the UK are:

- Driver error or reaction - this is a factor in 2 out of 3 collisions. The commonest errors are:
- Failure to look properly
- Failure to judge the other person's path or speed
- Loss of control

Action based on poor judgement - this contributes to just over a quarter of all collisions. The main factors are:

- Travelling too fast for the conditions
- Exceeding the speed limit
- Following too close

Being careless, reckless or in a hurry - is the next most common factor, contributing to around 1 in 6 collisions

Critical learning from experience

To become a better driver the first step is to recognise the resistance in ourselves to accepting responsibility. The second step is to accept every near miss and collision as a learning opportunity to decide how you can avoid the same mistake in the future.

It is irrelevant whether you believe another motorist is at fault - ASK 'What can I do differently?'

St Piran (Cornwall) Chapter News

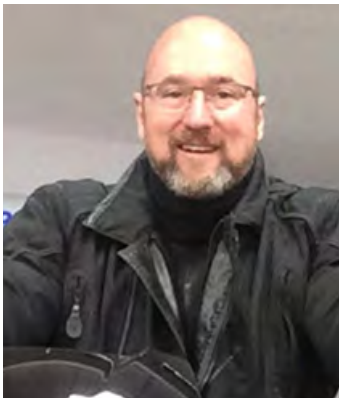
It has been a long term goal of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association to have one Widows Sons Chapter per province, and this is becoming a reality. Devon have the Pilgrims Chapter, Somerset have the Wyvern Chapter.

The WSMBA PGB are pleased to be taking this a step further with the formation of the **St Piran Chapter**, and the launch of their new Website **https://cornwall.wsmba.uk/** as they work towards gaining their charter and the chance to offer the opportunity to combine the camaraderie of masonry with the camaraderie of biking with like minded Brethren.

Membership is open to all Cornwall based Motorcycling Master Masons who are keen to get involved in this exciting new development for the Widows Sons.

Click here to contact W. Bro. William Hewett via info@cornwall.wsmba.uk

Beda Chapter Roundup



As with all chapters Beda have had a rough year with little ride outs, the best-laid plans of mice and men and all that. But we have kept our spirts high with different virtual events including a monthly virtual quiz/social night, a virtual animal talk and when allowed ride outs, keeping to current guidelines. Fundraising has been difficult, but with our monthly licenced lottery, we keep the numbers looking healthy!

When restrictions were lifted last year, we manged to ride over to Sir Toms wall, organised a charity bake off and have a picnic in the park. There has also been plenty of ad hoc mid-week rides organised by members, where they will go for a short bimble in the evenings ending up for tea and cake somewhere.

With our charity funds and members good will we have been able to help out some of our members though the tougher times of the last year as well as donate food and supplies to Azalra, who provide support to victims of sexual assault, provide meals to the Kings Arms Project, put together a sensory bike for Kids in Action and much more.

We are looking forward to our first official ride together, after the restrictions have been lifted, and the rest of the ride outs which our Road Captains have planned for us.

W. Bro Chris Handley
(aka *Fugazi*)
President
Beda Chapter

West Kent Chapter Roundup

On Friday 26th March the West Kent Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association donated over 150 Easter Eggs to the Bromley Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum, which represents some 15 local charities which care for disadvantaged children living within our Province.

As President of the Widows Sons West Kent Chapter, I am both delighted and immensely proud that the members of the Chapter have been able to support such a worthy cause at this special time of year, and help bring a little sweetness and joy to those less fortunate children living within our community.

Sadly, lock-down restrictions has meant that the delivery of the Easter Eggs to the children has had to be a ‘low key’ event. However, I am sure that in receiving this gift the children within our Province, who so desperately need our support, will know that we are thinking of them.

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

Gibraltar Chapter Roundup

It was back in 2013 when several brethren from the lodges in Gibraltar visiting the UGLE Museum came across and accidentally were

introduced to the Masonic Bikers Association with the Masonic Fraternity.

Later that same year, whilst visiting the annual bikers' event in Faro, one of these Brothers came across members of the WSMBA. On his return to Gibraltar efforts were made on several occasions through the District of Gibraltar (EC) Grand Secretary to initiate contact with the WSMBA in the United Kingdom to establish a local Chapter in Gibraltar. Unfortunately, there was not a response, and the idea was slowly forgotten.

Gibraltar, like in many other locations has the local presence of a Motorcycle Club (MC) and others such as the Harley Riders Groups whilst some local venture in Spain and join the local MC's (Hells Angels, Outlaws etc…).Whilst this can be an option to all bikers, this is not the preferred option to many of us within the Fraternity.

In January 2020 Masonic Brethren that continue to enjoy the Fraternity as much as riding together during weekends and even venture off several times per annum on long tours into Spain, Portugal, Morocco and France, at one of these weekly outings, it was discussed the possibility of joining the WSMBA.

It was agreed that we should try and initiate contact once again with a hope that we could obtain information on membership requirements and maybe even starting our own Chapter in Gibraltar.

Our initial contact was made by trying to join one of the WSMBA Groups on Face book, clearly was not to happen as this is a closed group for members only. We were at the time informed that there were no Widows Sons Europe Groups and whilst WSMBA had an interest in expanding there, there were no current chapter's setup in our close vicinity. This news clearly gave the local Brethren a window of opportunity, no chapters meant we go and progress our ultimate idea of establishing our own chapter.

As weeks passed, the world pandemic became a sad reality; we saw our initial contact with the members of WSMBA came to a sudden and unexpected halt. The year passed us all by, and it was not until January 2021 that we finally succeeded on taking the necessary steps in joining the WSMBA membership after we tried to initiate contact once again though the WSMBA in Ireland.

Somehow our email to WSMBA Ireland landed in Prepschool's inbox, we have no idea how this happened however, we are only grateful technology did its work properly for a change. Since our initial communication on 10th February 2021, it's all turned in to plane sailing.

As you will appreciate having received our Charter on St. George's Day only proves the work carried out by the membership in little more than two months. Not only did we need to go through the process of the application but, we needed to ensure that we understood what was required from us as members from this association going forward.

FUND RAISING EVENTS DURING EASTER IN GIBRALTAR

St. Martin's School

Widows Sons Gibraltar Chapter this year was not able to assist those in need as a local Chapter however, thanks to the initial membership with Widows Sons SE Chapter these members were able to deliver on time to several locations.

In preparation for Easter their school wanted to arrange an Easter egg hunt in good time before there school break. Unfortunately, they had not received any interest of support this year from other local societies or associations for this initiative.

St. Bernadette School

Whilst Covid restrictions remained in place we are happy to confirm that best efforts were made to receive a group of 3 riders by the staff. This allowed us to present our donations personally whilst taking the opportunity for a quick picture.

Phase II & III of our Easter donations. WSMBA Gibraltar members were able to support both St. Bernadette's and St. Bernard's hospital children's Rainbow ward with their Easter eggs, a total of 75 Easter eggs were presented.

Arrangements are being made to send a thank you letter to those businesses that supported our initiative. In the last two weeks prior to Easter, we were fortunate enough to receive cash donations from several local businesses, the total collected summing up to a grand unexpected total of £800. This sum is well beyond our initial expectations.

St. Bernard Hospital, Children's Paediatric Rainbow Ward

The Gibraltar members were able to support this initiative by donating the necessary Easter cream and small eggs required for this to happen

MEMBERS FIRST RIDE OUT

Our first ride together was on Sunday 24th April 2021, we started the route at 09:00am from our home in Gibraltar through the province of Cadiz, and as usual we stopped on various road side café's for breakfast and refreshments. We had a great lunch at Sanlucar de Barrameda in Cadiz, the restaurant and meal was enjoyed by all.

News & Future Events

The WSMBA Gibraltar Chapter have a series of rides planned for the forthcoming future, Covid-19 permitting, one of these was attending the Faro Rally in Portugal, this is an annual event organised by the Moto Clube Faro in Portugal. However, and unfortunately, we have heard that due to the high rise in Covid-19, this Portuguese event could be cancelled.

Our charity work will continue across the year, in the limited time since we got together, the Widows Sons Gibraltar Chapter Committee have been working hard as a team to provide for the needy, we have already provided Easter Eggs for two special schools and a children's ward in Gibraltar, we have also managed to encourage local sponsors and businesses in relation to our funds raising through donations.

We are in the process of creating a Webpage, this medium of communication will raise our WSMBA Chapter and augment our Masonic commitment to portray the fraternity, as a principle of the WSMBA we will also be attending and contributing to local and international charitable events and rallies.

The Gibraltar Chapter WSMBA association and Committee consist of the following members and cornerstone members:

WSMBA Gibraltar Chapter Committee

- President: Bro. Darren Laguea
- Vice President WBro. James Noguera
- Treasurer WBro. Anthony Morillo
- Secretary WBro. Albert G Revagliatte
- WBro. Ronald Ignacio
- Bro. Michael Ballester

Cornerstone Members

- Edward Viagas
- Omar El Fath
- Lawrence Harrison
- Paul Ryman

We will be having our next committee meeting in the forthcoming weeks.

District Grand Lodge EC (Gibraltar)

"The RW District Grand Lodge Gibraltar EC secretary WBro. Francis Sheriff PM through the District Grand Lodge Gibraltar EC Grand Master WBro Alfred Ryan has congratulated our Gibraltar Chapter President and Association members with achieving The Gibraltar Chapter WSGC recognition.

The District Grand Lodge of Gibraltar EC will continue to support The Gibraltar Chapter as and when required, in their letter they take the opportunity in wishing The WSMBA Gibraltar Chapter every success in the future endeavours."

This news was happily received by all the members of the WSMBA Gibraltar Chapter and recognises the hard work of WSMBA Gibraltar Chapter president Bro Darren Laguea in making the Gibraltar Chapter a reality, the Gibraltar Chapter also recognises the support and help provided by the WSMBA South East Chapter UK members, fraternally with much thanks!

Worcestershire Chapter Roundup

As we left Christmas 2020 to a distant memory and started the new 2021 year, several Worcestershire Brethren from the West Midlands Chapter decided now was the right time to form a dedicated Worcestershire Chapter. Hence, during January, the formation work began with the blessing from our PGM, and we had the full backing and support from the President of West Midlands Chapter and all the members there – which meant that 13 founding members came on board. Along with the new Chapter badge, which required permission from the flag society and the new bylaws etc, thanks to the perseverance of our founding Secretary Martin "Deuce" Lawrence in particular, and our VP, Phil "Scooterboy" Underhill, and Treasurer, Stu "Stuey" Anderson, we were done and dusted within 3 weeks – we just needed the charter from the PGB to get going! This was finally granted by E-charter on 31st March, and therefore at time of writing this, we have been fully active for just over a month.

Clearly Lockdown curtailed our initial actions and rideout, but on the contrary, has given us plenty of time with several Zoom meetings to plan the remainder of the year. A full program has now been devised and in place, social media accounts and a web page www.worcs.wsmba.uk set up (using the new WSMBA hosting arrangements, which is great by the way!), and to commence further recruiting. I'm pleased to report that we have already expanded by almost 50%, and some additional officers are now in place - and we look forward to this continuing – along with setting up our association for non-masons, the Worcestershire Pear Drops.

Our first major rideout is planned for the 4th July – we have 13 founders, and 13 masonic meeting places in Worcestershire, so more than appropriate that we will be riding between all 13, and ending up with a family event at the last one, and for me to patch in all our members.

As a new Chapter, we look forward to meeting up with our close neighbourhood Chapters on our ride outs, many of whom have already contacted me to wish us success – and of course those further afield, as and when we can start to get to those long awaited events to meet up in person, and to really start up with our commitment to that great Freemasonry principle, Charity.

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

“The Mad Panic Rally!!”

Widows Sons MBA Rally 6th-8th August 2021

Bishop Auckland Rugby Club
West Mills Playing Fields, Bridge Rd,
Bishop Auckland DL14 7PA
A weekend of Beer Bands and Brotherhood, open to all Widows Sons members, associates and invited guests

Camping available on site Hog Roast on the Saturday Evening

Hotels nearby include:

premierinn-durham/bishop-auckland

expedia.co.uk/Hotel-Search

6th Fridays Entertainment

Live DJ playing choons

Live music from The Swamp Hoppers & The Bone Shakers

7th Saturdays Entertainment

Live DJ playing more choons

Live music from: The Whole Hogg & The Sharks

8th Sunday leave the site as you found it 😊

Stuff to do During the Day (hangovers permitting)

Bishop Auckland activities

Pubs n Grub nearby

Tickets are £20 per person using paypal,

Use name as reference pay to madpanicrally@gmail.com and **the “pay a friend”** setting. If you cannot use paypal, please contact us on the email above.

This event is to compensate for the cancellation of the National rally, please support it, and join us in Brotherhood

BikerCraft, the definitive motorcycle riding manual

The definitive motorcycle riding manual. This book will teach you everything from the basics, right up to Advanced level, whether you're a new learner, a rider returning to motorcycling or just somebody who wants to improve their skills. Too many bikers are either killed or seriously injured through stupidity - their own or another person's - so this book is aimed to help set that straight by explaining the Police rider's 'System' in a way that's easy to understand.

The book starts with the fundamentals of each particular aspect of riding, and then gently increases the explanations up to an Advanced Level of riding. The aim of this book is to teach any rider how to make the roads safer for themselves to use by looking at every aspect of motorcycling and gives guidance, tips and advice on how best to manage everyday situations more safely. The life that this book might save could well be your own. Whilst there are many books / videos teaching you how to pass your motorcycle test, there's nothing that describes the life-saving skills that are contained within BikerCraft.

Unfortunately, the current motorcycle test doesn't really impart all of the skills needed by a novice rider either. Skills that are proven to work by the most respected motorcycle riders in the world - the British police - and BikerCraft describes how the 'everyday rider' can utilise those same skills to vastly improve their own abilities, ride safer and increase their confidence.

Learning to master a motorcycle is nothing like driving a car. BikerCraft has been independently verified by an Advanced Police Examiner with over 34 years' worth of experience.

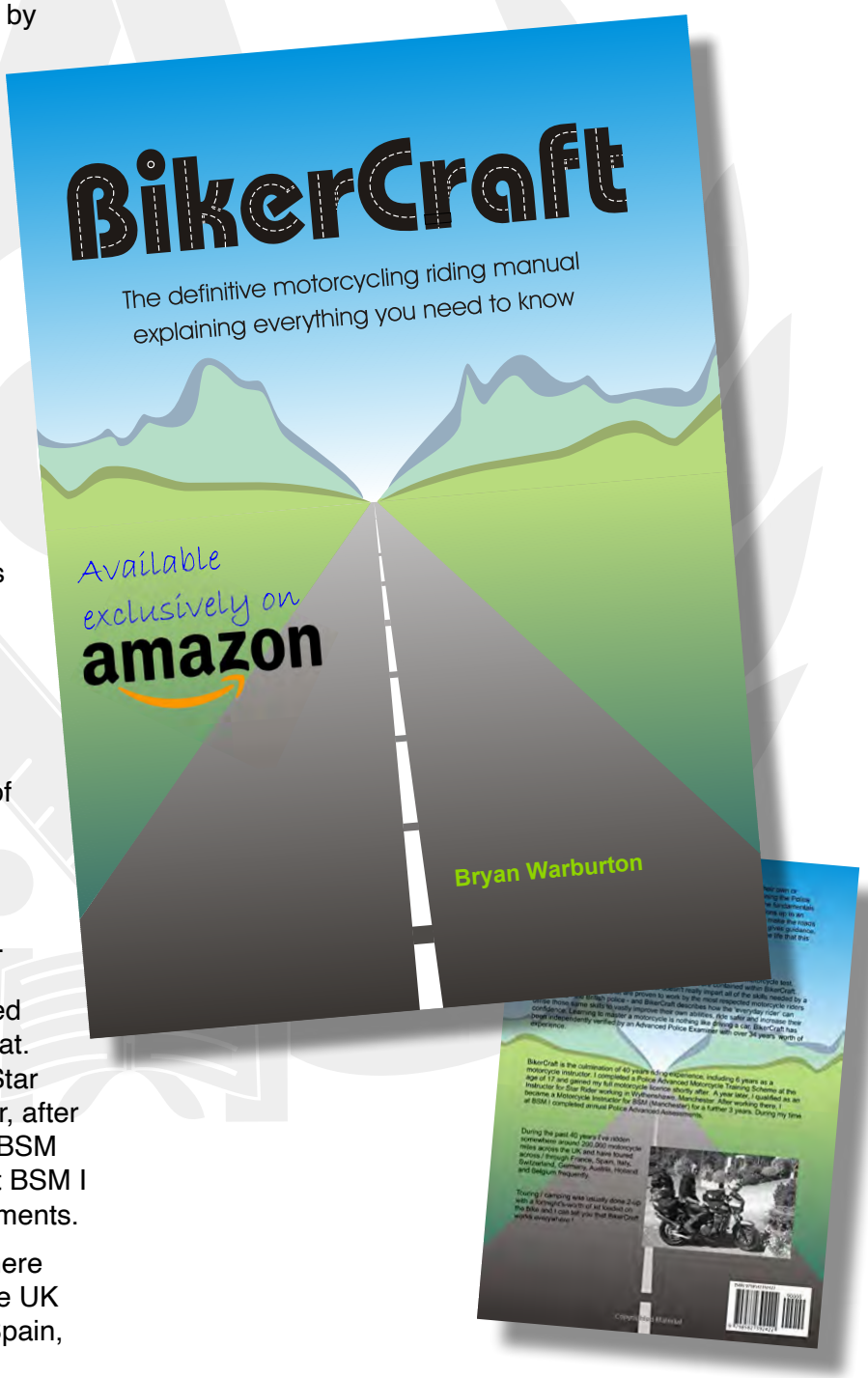
The skills that this book imparts are the culmination of 40 years riding experience, including 6 years as a motorcycle instructor. I completed a Police Advanced Motorcycle Training Scheme at the age of 17 and gained my full motorcycle licence 3 months after that. A year later, I qualified as an Instructor for Star Rider working in Wythenshawe, Manchester, after which I became a Motorcycle Instructor for BSM (Manchester) for 3 years. During my time at BSM I completed annual Police Advanced Assessments.

Over the past 40 years I've ridden somewhere around 200,000 motorcycle miles across the UK and have toured across / through France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Holland and Belgium frequently. Touring / camping was usually done 2-up with a fortnight's-worth of kit loaded on the bike and I can tell you that BikerCraft works everywhere!

BikerCraft by Amazon

Learn more: https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B08QWBY2J8/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_MD4YF36DM08R56NBWWWA

Ed: Other books are available, see: https://www.roadcraft.co.uk/



Cheshire Chapter Roundup

Hello and salutations from the Cheshire Widows Sons. Introductions first: Pete (Cridosi) Wright is the newly elected President of CWSMBA along with the Vice President, Paul (Stevo) Stevenson. Formed just over 3 short years ago and having raised just shy of £10000 for charity we pay thanks to Harry (Big H) Shone and the other founder members. Without their stalwart leadership and determination, we would not have blossomed into the successful group we undoubtably are.

Pete Wright on the left at a donation of baby-grows to a local hospital. The call was put out on social media and picked up on by Dave Lee, on the right, CWSMBA purchased and delivered the baby grows to the staff accompanied by Jeff Arnold.

CWSMBA has continued to carry out work in the community during the pandemic. From delivering food parcels, cleaning ambulances and helping the NHS by some of our brotherhood who are Blood Bikers. We bring to the Widows Sons what we learn from our Freemasonry, but what is Freemasonry without our brothers? To catch-up with friends, renew old acquittances and meet new people. Our group is growing with new members wanting to join almost monthly, this can only bode well for the future. We can't wait to meet up and explore new places and people again. The freedom our bikes give us has been stifled but hopefully as things open up, we can all get back on the road and enjoy the freedom, friendship and fraternity once again.

The road marshals and social secretaries are chomping at the bit and we hope to put them to good use in the not-too-distant future. But for now, I'm off to see if my suit still fits!

Until we can all met again brothers ride safe.

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

Masonic
Charitable Foundation

Are you a Freemason, or a close family member of a Freemason?
Do you have a financial, health, family or care related need?

We may be able to help.

Please keep this card in case you ever need to contact us

Can we help you?

Financial
- Essential daily living costs
- Help through a personal crisis
- Funeral bills
- Emergency home repairs

Family
- Educational expenses for children
- University scholarships
- Support for exceptional talent

Health
- Medical treatment
- Mobility aids
- Home adaptations
- Counselling

Care
- Masonic care homes
- Respite care
- Guidance and support

Masonic Charitable Foundation
www.mcf.org.uk

Can we help you?
For advice about the support we offer and how to apply, contact us today:
0800 035 60 90 | help@mcf.org.uk

Registered charity number 1164703.
Company number 09751836.

Masonic Charitable Foundation
www.mcf.org.uk

Do you have a financial, health, family or care related need?
Call our confidential enquiry line now
Freephone: 0800 035 60 90

Eligibility criteria applies

Cumbria Chapter Roundup

The last time I had to write an essay was 45 years ago. I'm sure it was a lot easier using pen, paper and pritstik for the the cut-out photos, yet here I am using a computer and annoying my wife Ann by swearing at the screen! However, as Cumbria has somehow entered the digital age without me noticing I shall do a quick piece on Cumbria Widows Sons.

We received our charter on the 25th of July 2015. Founder members are Mark Butler, James Butler, Mike Harrison, Denis Noble, Andrew Lister, Peter Prudhoe, Carl Whild, and my good self. We have, since then, doubled our number and are hoping to welcome a number of other interested Brothers in this next year. Our newest member who was initiated into freemasonry as a result of our contributions to the Bloodbikes charity, Dave Moffat, rides for the Cumbrian Blood bikes and has become an invaluable member, having instigated Zoom meetings over the months of the pandemic. We are all eager to resume rides out and raising money for charities, as we have done over the past years. This year, as the pandemic has reset my priorities, I am hoping to enjoy bikes, brotherhood and charity even more! Hope to meet you all in the (very) near future. If any brother is coming up to the lakes for a break, give us a heads up.

W. Bro Norman Pretswell
President
Cumbria Chapter

East Mids Chapter Roundup

Spring is upon us and the days are getting longer and the weather is getting warmer. Coupled with the relaxation of lock down rules we a moving to a period where we can get together and ride once more. Our first venture under the rule of 6 was a short ride to Stoney Cove. The was led by Peter 'Gunny' Gilbert. We don't call them Gunny's magical mystery tours for no reason. He keeps nominating himself for Road Captain but as yet has failed to find a seconder. It was the first time out for us this year. It was cold but dry and we had a great time and welcomed a couple of newbies who turned up to our second ride so we must have done something right.

The second ride was our monthly breakfast meeting at the Captain's Table, Shardlow Marina. Forty two turned up, completely overwhelming the catering staff as everyone wanted the big breakfast ***(Ed: and one veggie breakfast – you know who you are!)***. With plenty of tables we managed to stick to social distancing guidelines. We had 11 visitors from North West Chapter and one from West Midlands and we really appreciated them making the effort. There seemed to be a great sense of relief that we could at last start meeting friends that we have missed over the last year.

After breakfast a small group of us went on a ride around the Vale of Belvoir which was lead by our official Road Captain, Mike Gant. An excellent ride taking in some great roads and finishing with a coffee in Melton Mowbray

Throughout lockdown we have attracted many new members. One of these, Paul Hitchcock put a shoutout on our Whatsapp group asking for help on a crowd funding page his son had set up. A couple of years ago Paul's son, Jude volunteered at an orphanage in Uganda. He became friends with one of the orphans there, a lad called Brian who now spends most of his time at the orphanage, cooking, cleaning and whatever he can to help. He always puts the needs of the children before his own. Brian has been offered a music scholarship which will be life changing for him. Trouble is that he needs his own trombone and doesn't have one. So Jude set up the crowd fund to get the money for one and what do Widows Sons do when asked to help…….well they help of course. East Midlands donated the remaining £115 required to hit the target. I am sure that Brian will now embark on a new episode of his life and have a successful future.

Our Road Captain, Mike Gant is the Scout leader at Melton Scout Group and we have support them by providing four fire pits to the value of £200.

Looking to the future we hope to continue with our monthly breakfast meetings. All are welcome on the third Sunday of the month at Shardlow Marina, Derbyshire.

Following our successful President's weekend last year we be holding the event again from 17th to 19th September at the Greyhound Public House, Warslow in the Peak District. Camping is available and again all are welcome. We will be sending a healthy contingent up to 'The Mad Panic Rally' in Bishop Auckland in August. That looks like it will be a cracking event.

We have a psychic in our ranks, 'Ghostman' who is working with local Air Cadets on a possible 'Ghost Vigil' to raise funds for them. Seems to be a lot of interest…..we may have to take our own spirits though. We continue to support our young friend and honorary member, Matty and his family. His brain tumour is worse and he is suffering more. We delivered Red Nose merch and cup cakes and Grumpy is trying to arrange a helicopter ride for him and one of our Bad Pennies has organised the use of a chauffeur driven Rolls Royce Phantom for a day. We will provide a picnic for them.

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

Pilgrims Egg Run

Our President's wife and Associate member, Gill Graves (Road name Diesel) had a superb idea last December that we could arrange an Egg Run for the residents of Cadogan Court Masonic Nursing Home (RMBI) and this idea was whole heartedly approved by all the Brethren.

It was pointed out that Children's homes and hospices regularly get visits at Easter and Christmas but our elderly generations are often missed out. So, the plan was hatched to go ahead.

We all agreed that every member would donate £5 per month over three months Jan – Mar, so £15 in all (Lodges were closed and our regular raffle donations weren't happening anyway). The response was overwhelming and the Easter Egg "mountain" kept growing, so the VP Mark Hart (AKA CrabFat) suggested that we added St Luke's Hospice, Plymouth "Turnchaple" to the donation list as he supports them all through the year by completing fundraising events, sadly not this year due to COVID-19. As a chapter we decided that it was a great idea and so we split the mountain of eggs between the two.

Easter Saturday 3rd April at lunchtime a small group from the Pilgrims Chapter of the Widows Sons went to our local hospice "St Luke's Hospice, Plymouth" for 2 reasons. Firstly to present a massive cheque for the amount of £1150.00, this was from last year's Rob's Run 2020 but sadly due to lockdown we were only able to present the cheque yesterday, which was received with the greatest of thanks.

Secondly we donated 150 Easter Eggs for St Luke's Hospice, Plymouth for them to hand out as they see fit. Overall it was an awesome day out with a small group of brothers and sisters.

Deliveries of eggs was also made on Easter Sunday 4th April to Cadogan Court Masonic Nursing Home, which was a great success, The Widows Sons Pilgrims were made very welcome by the home manager who provided us with Tea, Coffee and biscuits and we even had an elderly resident carefully sat astride the Almoners bike whilst idling. After a few twists of the throttle her face was a picture, and I am certain it

brought back some amazing memories for all. Overall a great weekend by the Widows Sons Pilgrim's Chapter.

Mark Hart
(aka *Crabfat*)
Widows Sons Pilgrim's Chapter

In Memoriam

His Royal Highness
The Duke of Edinburgh

10th June 1921 - 9th April 2021

Navy Lodge, № 2612

Lived respected and died regretted

Next issue

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

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

Please send your submissions, articles, stories, images, events and Chapter News (plain text with seperate images preferred) for the next issue to the Editor by email to: **wsmbanews@gmail.com** before **Tuesday 24th August**

Please all be safe, ride safe and keep well. Enjoy the Summer and the new freedom!

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