



Chairman's Report

Brethren all, I trust you have made the most of the festive season to get out and about on Toy Runs. Its great to see the pictures on the various social media pages showing vans full of toys being delivered to children in need of a gift at Christmas. Do try to get the stories and photos into the Provincial news teams where possible and of course the Son.

Remembrance Sunday was also a date that we respected and supported in numbers. Chapters across the country laying wreaths alongside the PGM's and community leaders. And of course, the big turn out to RTTW 2024. It is very appropriate that we Freemasons continue to remember, and our very own Freemasons Hall was built as a memorial to the thousands of Brethren who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1918. It is very sobering to read through the names and ages of those recorded on the scroll in the brass altar in the vestibule. If you have not seen it, do so on your next visit.

The WSMBA Constitution has been drafted and tweaked, and re-tweaked but I think we are there. It will be circulated to the Presidents in time to be adopted at the AGM in Derby on Saturday the 22nd of February 2025.

Hopefully we will have a good turnout to the AGM which is our most significant meeting of the Association and every Chapter should be represented. Grumpy has worked hard to pull together a venue that can offer accommodation, parking and bed and breakfast. Details have been circulated and please bear in mind the AGM is a Chapter expense if you need to budget.

Widows Sons Lifelites Ball 2025 is being hosted by Southern Chapter at the Norton Park Hotel Spa & Manor House, Norton Park, Winchester, SO21 3NB. Saturday 1st February 2024. The hotel is set across 54 acres of blissful parkland just outside historic Winchester, and offers everything you need for a great stay, including relaxing spa treatments, an indoor pool, neighbouring walking trails and the stunning Manor House. Perhaps take an extra day and spoil yourselves. This is becoming an established WSMBA Black-Tie event and a great opportunity to continue our support for Lifelites. A significant national charity also supporting children in need. Attendees are strongly encouraged to bring and wear their Cuts too.

Our next National Rally is being organised by Region 6, being Anglia, Beda, Cobblestones, Hallstone, Icen, Norfolk, Oxonian and Shires. They have hit the ground running so pencil in the date, 25th-27th July 2025. Better still buy tickets. The event is being held at Leighton Buzzard Rugby Club, Leighton Road, Stanbridge, LU7 9HR. There will be bands, Hog Roast, Vendors, a Ride Out and of course the Widows Sons Lodge meeting. A dedicated email address has been set up to handle any queries as follows: info2025@rally.wsmba.uk



The above events have been circulated and regularly feature on the PGB Whatsapp Group. However, if you are planning something which is date critical a flyer can be circulated by the National Secretary, secretary@wsmba.uk

I have said this before but is certainly now a fact. We are continuing to be recognised by our Masonic Rulers as a positive element within Freemasonry and that is down to the way all of you wear our front patch with pride, raise funds for good causes, act positively within communities. (Obey traffic signs). Please keep up the good work and don't forget to pass on good news stories to the Provincial news teams! No other "Widows Sons" group can offer Masonry the synergy that we the WSMBA do.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

W. Bro. Gregory Kirby SLGR.



Digital Donations

You are, no doubt, all aware that we are collecting for Lifelites over the next few years and aim to raise £20,000 by the end of 2025. To aid this we have opened a relief chest with the Masonic Charities Fund which means we can claim the 25% gift aid for every applicable donation. To make collecting for relief chests easier the MCF have created a QR code for us that you can see here.

This QR code will make collecting from chapters, lodges and individuals much easier, all you have to do is take a photo of this card, keep it on your phone and show it to people when they say they want to donate. Use this wherever and wherever you are, so long as you have an Internet connection!

The benefits of Digital Donations

- No need to hold cash or have unnecessary physical contact.
- Fast and simple donation process.
- Donate before, during or after all Masonic and non-Masonic events as and when convenient (in the middle of a lodge meeting might be frowned on, for example).
- Donors can keep a record of all their donations by requesting email receipts.

Whether you use the QR code or follow the URL <https://gtap.uk/e1072> you will be taken to a web page where you need to provide certain details. The following will help you to help those who are filling those details in.

- The address details are obvious.
- Name of Lodge/Chapter – This is the donor's lodge and is used to keep tabs on how much a given lodge or chapter has donated. If the donor is not a freemason then just put your own lodge.
- Number of Lodge/Chapter to be credited – The number of the lodge or chapter they provided in the previous box.
- Appeal name – This can be left blank since we are only collecting for Lifelites.



Christmas Party

Cheshire held a Christmas party at Middlewich Masonic Hall. It was a great night, full of food, drink, dancing and fantastic raffle prizes. We raised over £1300 for our toy run to Arrowpark Childrens Ward. This fantastic amount took us over £21,000 in total charitable donations since our start in 2018.



From Labour To Refreshment

On December 7th Notts Chapter delivered 90 selection boxes, one for each pupil, to Fountindale School for children with special learning needs. The Chapter have been delivering Easter Eggs for the last to years to the school, but wanted to do something for them at Christmas too. The weather was too inclement to get the kids outside to sit on the bike so we were invited into Santa's Grotto which was one of the attractions at the school's Christmas Fair held the same day.

In the evening it was time to relax at the Chapter's Christmas Dinner held at the Provincial Grand Lodge restaurant. It was a great evening, and some new members and prospective members joined in the fun.



Beda Chapter Roundup

Beda are proud that two more members have been installed as WMs: W. Bro. Jeff (Snatch) Boote and W. Bro. Conor (Spartan) Gosling as W.M.s of John Bunyan and Robert De Parys Lodges.

Bro. Snowy (Gladiator) Dyson was Exalted into Someries Royal Arch Chapter. All the ceremonies were well supported by Beda, and we look forward to 2 further Installations in 2025 for Bros. Adam (Gizmo) Smith and James (Deadlift) Montague.



Beda Rideouts and Socials

Rideouts continued in the Autumn with Ride To The Wall and Weedon Depot. As the weather drew in, Beda enjoyed the monthly Social meetings and excellent Quiz Nights.



Keech Hospice Sparklers Emergency Day.

SERV Blood Runners and Beda were pleased to be invited to support Keech Hospice Sparklers Emergency Day:

"I wanted to say a huge thank you to all at BEDA chapter. WSMBA for supporting our Sparklers group with our emergency services morning, Sparklers is our pre and post bereavement support group for

young people and the children who attend have been through a lot of emotional turmoil. The emergency services morning gives these young people the chance to have fun but also break down fears they may have built up around our emergency services.

I can assure you our young people had a lot of fun, there was a lot of smiles and laughter, the Masonic Bikers were incredible and let the young people sit on the bikes and even rev the engines! It was such a special day, and I cannot thank you, The Masonic Bikers and Blood Runners enough for supporting us with this event".



Remembrance Day

Beda were honoured to be invited to ride with the Royal British Legion Riders Branch at Bedford. Beda President Snatch laid the wreath and Beda joined the RBLR for the parade through Bedford and a military inspection by HM Armed Forces commanders.

Charities

Beda members volunteer with and support Saturday Outreach Service Bedford by providing sleeping bags, warm clothing and food. Beda supports Respite Care at Home Flitwick helping them look after the elderly donating towards running costs and

funding useful equipment. When a Leighton Buzzard Scout Hut was flooded by recent storms, Beda donated to help with repair costs.

Christmas Run 2024

Beda Chapter and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Bedfordshire teamed up for their sixth time to deliver Christmas cheer to children at Bedford, Luton and Dunstable Hospitals and the Keech Children's Hospice. The 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, Provincial Grand Charity Steward and 9 Beda Bikers visited Bedford A&E and the Luton and Dunstable Hospital with Christmas Chocolates and TLC Teddy Bears, then rode on to Keech Hospice where Beda presented their own gift of 2 crates of TLC Teddies to the Children's Department.



All three visits were greatly appreciated by the Hospital and Hospice Staff.

“It was such a pleasure to see you, Santa, and the bikers today. Your visit truly helped us all embrace the Christmas spirit, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to you . Your generosity makes a significant difference to our young paediatric patients, brightening their experience in the department. It's wonderful to see the smiles on their faces when they leave with a cute teddy and some chocolates during the Christmas season.

We're also deeply grateful for the tubs of delicious chocolates and the adorable limited-edition orange teddies. Your kindness and thoughtfulness never go unnoticed and are greatly appreciated by both our patients and staff”.

National Rally

Preparations for the National Rally are well under way and ticket sales are going well. We are looking forward to a fantastic event and welcoming Widows Sons from across the UK to the event.

Paul Myers (Maverick) on behalf of Beda.



East Kent Chapter Update

A quick round up of some of the events East Kent have been involved in since the last edition! In the summer were asked to participate in the 'Sheppey Spectacular' we decided to go for a ride first, then turned up at the event – superbly put on by the Freemasons of the Isle of Sheppey – a massive fun fair and events all day long. We had our gazebo up and had been asked to do a 'Ride On' – which we duly did. They held a 'thanksgiving' evening in November and presented cheques to a huge number of charities who supported them on the day – including the East Kent Widows Sons, of which the £'s went straight into our Toy Run funds (of which I will come back to later)!



We had one of our members go into the 'Chair' for the first time, so a number of us headed out to Broadstairs to attend 'Hot Stuff' become Worshipful Master! A few from East Kent supported West Kent at their Remembrance Parade – was nice to have 4 Chapters supported at that event. Our last 'Big' ride of the year, saw 19 of us head out to Sussex to 'meet the neighbours' – we had a good ride through Kent and then headed up to the 1066 for some well-earned tea and grub!



In November we managed to bring the warrant for the Hundred of Hoo Mark Lodge out of abeyance – with the success of the Widows Sons Mark Lodge it was seen as a chance to reunite them once again! 4 members were elevated into RAM by the Provincial team who then installed the first WS Worshipful Commander (Frog) and his officers into their offices. There is already a line forming for the next WS to be elevated!

Onto the Toy Run – with great support from Craft, Mark and RAM Lodges across East Kent – we were able to provide just over £5,000 worth of toys and gifts to charities across East Kent. We were welcomed with teas, coffee, sausage rolls and mince pies by the volunteers of the charities – we dropped off the gifts and had a sing a long before heading off on our merry way to the next stop!!



We have another 3 x WS installations and at least 2 more Widows Sons lectures in the pipeline in the next couple of months – so the East Kent calendar keeps us all busy!!

3rd Gear - President



Ride to Remember Victoria Cross Heros

This year Notts Chapter, Widows Sons Masonic Bikers, again undertook our VC Remembrance Ride, visiting the graves of the nine Victoria Cross holders in our Province, as it had proved so successful last year. The citation, last post and the



Going Down of the Sun were conducted at each grave and a poppy cross laid with the message 'Remembered by the Widows Sons'. Our first cemetery was Warsop in the north of the Province to remember Sergeant Robert James BYE 1st Bn, Welsh Guards. He was a member of the VC Guard at the interment of the Unknown Warrior on 11th November 1920. We then travelled south to Oxton Church, where we remembered Captain Robert (Rupert) SHERBROOKE - Destroyer Flotilla. Arctic Convoy Escort, He later attained the rank of Rear Admiral and was appointed High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire for 1958-59. Then Redhill Cemetery, for Sergeant William Henry JOHNSON Sherwood Foresters. Nottingham Cemetery, Private Robert HUMPSTON 2nd Bn, The Rifle Brigade who was invested with his Victoria Cross by Queen Victoria in Hyde Park on the

26th June 1857 & Private Samuel MORLEY 2nd Battalion Military Train. Samuel Morley was, to say the least, a 'bit of a lad' during his service. His name appears no less than sixteen times in the Regimental defaulter's book. He was court martialled twice and served two terms of imprisonment, being prone to going absent without leave. He was, however, one of the bravest men ever to serve with the British Army. Wilford Hill Cemetery was next, where there are three VC holders buried, Corporal Charles Ernest GARFORTH 15th (The King's) Hussars, Private John Joseph CAFFREY, 2nd Battalion, The York and Lancaster Regiment & Lance Corporal Harry NICHOLLS 3rd Bn, Grenadier Guards. Lance Corporal Harry Nicholls was reported as being killed in action but in fact was taken prisoner after running out of ammunition. Nicholls was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously as it was presumed that he had died. Harry Nicholls was informed of his award of the Victoria Cross by the Commandant of Stalag XXA Prisoner of War Camp and was invested with his VC following his repatriation at the end of hostilities in 1945. Harry Nicholls was invested with his Victoria Cross by King George VI at Buckingham Palace on the 22nd June 1945.

We were fortunate to meet Lance Corporal Harry Nicholls' son at the graveside and it was an honour and a privilege to have him join in with our short ceremony. Our ride was completed at Stapleford Cemetery Where we laid our last cross at the grave of Lance Corporal Walter Richard PARKER Royal Marines Light Infantry.



The Derbyshire Motorcycle Chapter visit Burslem Chapter and things get savage!

On the 3rd February the Derbyshire Motorcycle Chapter visited Burslem Chapter (the Staffordshire Motorcycle chapter) to present the Savage ritual and exalt two new members to Burslem.

So what is the Savage Ritual?

The Savage Club Chapter Ritual was rediscovered in the archive of the Savage Club Chapter No 2190, who meet in London, in the mid-2000s, and had seemingly been approved for use many decades previously but had never been brought into use. After members of the chapter read it, the consensus was that they should move towards it.



It doesn't change anything about the underlying Royal Arch story or the message it imparts, But allows the candidates to appreciate his candidate's involvement and his reaction because the story is easier to follow. It's a shorter, more efficient and a more engaging experience and this is why it has become quite popular

The most significant difference is that in other rituals the narrative and the performance aspect are split, which means the story essentially gets run twice, whereas this version has simultaneous acting and narration. This means there is less coming and going and it creates more roles for other participants.





It's shorter and more fun to participate in, but without losing any of the gravitas of the ceremony and its underlying story and it is hoped that this keeps the character of the story and that it is still clearly recognisable to anyone in the Royal Arch but is a little more engaging.

The evening was a great success and Burslem were honoured to have the MEGS from both Staffordshire and Derbyshire and their deputies in attendance

A fabulous evening with excellent ritual and workings with over 50 in attendance. Welcome Companions Alistair and Ismail to the Chapter, we hope you have a great enjoyable journey

And of course, being motorcycle chapters the Widows Sons from Staffs, Shrops, Cheshire and Derbyshire Chapters were in attendance.

<https://www.burslemchapter98.org.uk/>



Massive Response to Appeal

Notts Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association sent out an appeal to all Craft Lodges in the Province asking for donations to fund our food box scheme at the QMC Hospital. The response has been overwhelming and secures the future of the scheme for some time to come. As the President of the Notts Chapter I would like to extend my thanks to all the Lodges that have made a donation. I have been humbled by the scale of the generosity and buoyed by the good Freemasonry can do.

For those unfamiliar with the scheme very simply the Notts Chapter have for the last couple of years been placing food boxes in children's wards at the QMC. The food is there for parents to help themselves if they unexpectedly have to stay with their children through the night. This is a time when there is no other source of refreshment available. We are a small group, and the burden has been on our members to provide the food, which can be a bit of a strain. These donations will now be ringfenced to keep the scheme going.



Greetings From the Cheshire Chapter

Ride To the Wall 2024

October saw the yearly ride of remembrance to the National Arboretum for Ride To The Wall. The ride started with the obligatory breakfast at a local cafe before we headed off to join others riding in. We headed over to the Masonic Memorial Garden where we were met by fellow WS brothers from all over the country. Grumpy from the Merlin Chapter conducted a great little ceremony! The whole day was very moving, and we look forward to it again next year.



Remembrance Day

November is a busy time for the Cheshire Chapter as we lay wreaths and crosses across the province. Many brethren also take part in local remembrance parades and ceremonies representing both the craft and the WS. Thank you to all the members who were out and about representing freemasonry in a positive way.



Zip World

A rather chilly, Sunday morning ride at the start of November saw members head over to Zip World in North Wales. The members rode over to support some Provincial brethren, including the Cheshire PGM in their charity event. A £100 cheque was presented towards the fundraising.



WSMBA chapter website design

- **Got a chapter?**
- **Want a website?**

If you answered “Yes” to these two questions then this article is for you!

In issue 7 of The Son we discussed how the wsmba.uk domain is set up and how each chapter has their own domain beneath it, shires.wsmba.uk for instance. These subdomains are mostly used for emails but with a little bit of work you can also have a website that uses your chapter domain name to access it.

The technical bit

The association offers a web hosting facility to all WSMBA chapters. You design your website on your own machine and upload it to our platform and we allow the rest of the digital world to see it.

The domain is secured with an SSL certificate so people can trust that our sites are safe and can be trusted (but see below on design software).

Your bit

First, you will need to find a website designer that you can lubricate with intoxicating liquids until they agree to design your website for you. Alternatively you can create it yourself if you're willing to learn, it's really not difficult, read on.

Software

There are many different software applications that you can use to create your website and the cost varies from free to thousands of pounds to buy and use. We will focus on the two.

Mobirise

Mobirise is free software that runs on both Windows and MacOS machines. This software is highly recommended because although it is free the final website has no forced advertising. The company makes its money from renting design templates but you don't have to use them.

There is a small learning curve but once you understand the basics it is simple to use and the WSMBA I.T. gurus are willing to answer any questions you may have.

A good example of a Mobirise website is our national one at <https://wsmba.uk/>

Wordpress

Like Mobirise, Wordpress is free to use and makes its money from renting templates and plug-ins, however we do not recommend the use of this

software due to the number of security holes that these free plug-ins create, currently 333 published vulnerabilities, 118 not yet patched (and you have to download the patch if it's fixed)*.

If you insist on using Wordpress and your site is found to be a source of infection then it will be shutdown and deleted immediately.

Hosting

However you design your site, once it is completed and you're happy with the result you will need to upload it to our hosting facility.

Send an email to technical@wsmba.uk, we will respond with the details you need to upload your site. Once you have this information you can transfer the site and thereafter add updates as and when you want to make changes.

Afterwards

- Now that your site is live you will need to keep it up to date.
- Make sure that photos are changed on occasion.
- If you keep a calendar on it then it is vital that old entries are removed and new items added frequently.
- Consider the timing of photos, Toy runs are great in winter but will look out of place by August, especially if they are over 12 months old.
- source: <https://patchstack.com/database/statistics/wordpress>



Worcs Chapter Roundup

A new initiative led, by Mark Barber, the Charity Steward of Lodge of Hospitality, No. 8325, is being run out of Kings Heath Freemasons Hall, in the form of a donation point for the Kings Heath Food Bank. The food bank itself, is situated just 10 doors down from the Hall and is in desperate need of our support. The pandemic was hard, but the current economic situation is hitting even harder on families and the elderly, as more and more people are being forced to look and rely on the voluntary work of the local Food Banks. Each donation makes a difference.

Sadly Every Two Minutes a Family Uses the Kings Heath Food Bank...

It is solely run by one lady, Sharon Power, a local woman, and it is open for 2 hours every week on a Friday morning and 1.5 hours on a Saturday morning. During this short time, they have over 100 visitors using the service. Which means when it is open it supports a family every 2 minutes. The Food Bank runs purely on donations and is genuinely struggling to keep up with demand.

Hence this initiative.

With Christmas upon us Mark Barber and Mark Keepax put into place a Charitable Campaign to enable a 'Big Christmas Food Bank Shop'. They were magnificently supported by the generosity of the Lodge of Hospitality No. 8325, Wythall Lodge No. 5665 and the Worcestershire Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Chapter. The bumper amount raised was

enhanced by a contribution from the Worcestershire Freemasons Charity. This has been further increased by a donation from Wigornia Chapter No. 4935, via the Royal Arch Provincial Charity Fund. This takes the 'Big Christmas Shop Fund' beyond £1,500, which is incredible as the Campaign was only started in September!

High Winds, Rain, Floods & Even Storm Darragh didn't stand in our way...

The 'Big Christmas Shop' was scheduled for Saturday 7th December - which we all will remember was when 'Storm Darragh' hit. Despite some last minute adjustments, the shop still took place. This included Sainsbury's cancelling the order on that very morning, Mark Barber and his wife doing an emergency replacement shop, and Mark Keepax pivoting the timetable arrangements, standing down some of the more vulnerable guests, with the President of the Worcestershire Widows Sons, Andy Philpott, altering the ride out format to the Food Bank to still make this work. Which it magnificently did! The proposed 'Santa (Mark Barber) and Santa's Widows Sons Helpers' ride out was replaced with a car ferrying convoy, but still with a bike for an honour guard from the Widows Sons, and other members who braved the elements to walk to the Food Bank in the very inclement weather. More importantly, the donation put a smile on so many families faces and saw all the children receive a selection box and a colouring book or other present. With the 'cherry on the top' being a fantastic personal donation by Tom



Carr, of Turkeys and fresh produce to ensure the Food Bank users all went away with a Christmas dinner. Everyone involved, and those who turned up are simply Wonderful Masons in Action!

And by way of a follow up; If every member of the units meeting at Kings Heath halls, and every visitor, brings just one item of food with them each time they visit the hall... we can make regular donations and make a real difference to this charity - and in turn help the people who are struggling right on our very doorstep. This wonderfully aligns with our Provincial Grand Master's desire for Worcestershire Freemasons to be seen making positive charitable contributions and creating real social value in our local communities.

Social Value is at the heart of what we do as Worcestershire Freemasons

So whether it's popping in a few extra items whilst doing the weekly shop, or pinching a can of beans from the cupboard before you leave the house as Social Value gives hope to those that need it most

We urge every user and visitor of Kings Heath Masonic Hall, to just pause for a moment at the Food Donation Point and make the following action a habit when visiting the Hall:

- Check the displayed required foods list
- Place donations in the signed receptacle in the entrance hall of Kings Heath Hall
- Remember "every little really helps"

So... "bring a can when you can"

The initiative is simply a heartfelt ask for your kind help and to show compassion for others less fortunate. So let's unite in making a real difference to this local charity.

Ladies Masonic Friendship Club Fills a Complete Food Bank Container!

It's not just Masons who are supporting this initiative. At the November meeting of the Ladies Masonic Friendship Club, their donations alone filled a complete Food Bank container. Their generosity has not gone unnoticed, with praise being expressed by both the Provincial Almoner, Bill Tucker, and the Provincial Charity Steward, Chris Vendy, for their outstanding work. Ladies do lead the way.

The Food Bank - started in 2020 during lockdown, has gone from working out of the lounge of the Station Inn pub, to being allowed to operate from an Islamic place of worship, to now having a portacabin supplied for them to operate independently out of the car park of the Green Oak Academy. It's now become a community life line.

SOURCE
The newsletter of Worcestershire Freemasons



Issue 71
December 2024

Bikesure insurance discount for WSMBA members

My name is WB George Young and I am a member of the Northumberland Chapter.

If you need anything more give either myself or Nick a shout.

I have managed to get a discount of upto 25% from Bikesure insurance for WSMBA members.

Please see the email below from Nick.

Good afternoon!

My names Nick and I am the Owners Club Representative for Bikesure Insurance. Bikesure are the UK's leading specialist motor intermediary and my role is to build relationships with owner's clubs regardless of size or machine and to promote the many benefits of becoming one of our acknowledged clubs.

As a specialist motorbike broker, we will compare motorcycle insurance from dozens of providers to find you the very best deal, whatever your individual needs. We treat all our customers as individuals and because we have access to more than 40 different motorbike and moped insurance schemes, you can be sure there will be one suited to you.

We have teamed up with "The WSMBA" to offer discounted Insurance Policies to its members. We can tailor our quotes to suit the individual providing benefits such as Agreed Valuation, Extended European cover, Free Legal Cover and Like for Like cover on your modifications!

All you need to do is call on 0800 089 0165 and mention "WSMBA".

If you already an existing customer and have any customer service queries or are due for a renewal then again don't hesitate to drop me a message and I will be happy to help.

Thanks

Nick Wilkinson

Owners Club Liaison

Adrian Flux Insurance Services

T. 01553 845 585 E. Nick.Wilkinson@adrianflux.co.uk

Adrian Flux Insurance Services, East Winch Hall, East Winch, King's Lynn,
Norfolk,

PE32 1HN



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Widows Sons Dedicated Marketplace



BroBay



'So Mote It Be'

Widows Sons, buy and sell pages. UK

WS "BroBay"

A marketplace for like minded bros to sell & buy bike related items @ honest prices

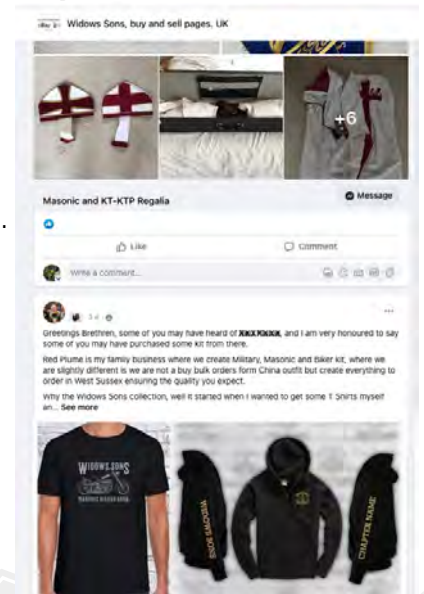
The only criteria to join is to be a Widows Son located in the UK & Ireland.

So please feel free to invite your fellow Widows Sons from the UK & Ireland to join us.

We'll take it that you can vouch for any bro you invite.

Please note we can not allow business posts, personal gain posts or 'service' posts.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/662943394115662>



NO ROAD IS TOO LONG IF YOU HAVE GOOD COMPANY....

Widows Sons Morocco Tour Fund Raising November 2024



As is now customary The Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association Gibraltar undertook a fund raising tour of Morocco in November 2024. Eight days of traveling through the Kingdom of Morocco by 16 of us. The itinerary was Gibraltar, Tarifa, Tangiers, Casablanca, Agadir, Marrakech. El Jadida, Kenitra, Tangiers, Tarifa and back to Gibraltar.

An initiative to combine our charitable collections with the EV Foundation and Teddies for Loving Care meant that we took with us an extra passenger in the shape of "Bugsie" the TLC bear.

At the end of eight days of fellowship and companionship and over 2000 kms of travel we had raised £1,400 for the two charities. This will go towards paying for the the EV Foundations children's Christmas party as well as a substantial donation to TLC Gibraltar.

At the end of the eight days we returned to Gibraltar tired but happy in having shared new experiences, made new friends, enjoyed good food and even better company. All of this to help worthy causes.





W Bro. Tony Harvey PJGD made honorary member of the Widows Sons

On Sunday 20th October Clumber Lodge held a Big Brunch at the Acacia Centre, Annesley Woodhouse. The Notts Widows Sons have supported this event for about 3 years and always have a fantastic time. The occasion proved to be the perfect opportunity to present W Bro Tony Harvey and his good lady Diane with Nottinghamshire Chapter patches after they had recently been offered honorary membership. Tony is not a biker, we are working on that, but Tony is a great supporter of the work that the Widows Sons do and we look forward to working with him in the future.





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

When supplying articles please:

- Send them in Word Format or Plain Text as attachments only, these are the only acceptable formats.
- Please do not send articles as PDF's, in email bodies, PowerPoint or other non-text apps, **this will result in your article being rejected**, and/or missing its inclusion in the Magazine.
- Please title your article and the submission email with your Chapter name, subject of the email and that it is a submission for “**The SON**” Magazine - i.e. “West Midlands Chapter, Son Submission, Autumn 2024”
- Please spell and Grammar check your articles before sending (Word has Spell and Grammar Check tools - see <https://bit.ly/3QJI0XX>)
- Send images separately - please use **descriptive image names** that reference the chapter name, article and approximate place they should be in your article. Do not put any text in “pic goes here” - as this has to be manually edited out
- Please send original images only - do not edit them down, crop, change resolution or process in any manner that may result in loss of image quality. We have sufficient server size to receive hi res images.
- Please do not send articles or attachments via time limited File transfer applications like WeTransfer
- Please limit the size of your submissions to an absolute maximum of 1,000 words minus images (using the Word count tool) This will make 2 pages in the magazine. The Editorial team may, upon consultation, take additional or larger articles if of special interest or importance.
Important note: if you add images, you will need to subtract about **50 words per single column width image** from your maximum. (so a 2 page doc with 4 pictures will only have room for 800 words)
- Publication is on the 1st of March, June, September and December. With a cut off two weeks before each issue. Cut off is **not** a target date! Please submit your article as soon as possible before the deadline - if Chapters consistently send on deadline day, the result is a delayed edition - the average time taken to assemble is 20-25 hours before editing process. We may have to bring the deadline forward, meaning it may become difficult to keep articles current.
- Please send your submissions, articles, stories, images, events and Chapter News for each next issue to the Editor by email to: news@wsmba.uk no later than two weeks before as this impacts publication dates!
- Please send your article just once, you will receive an auto response from the Mailbox confirming receipt. Sending again duplicates the work for the editorial team, and will have a knock-on affect on other articles.

Next issue

The Spring issue of **THE Son** will be published on 1st June 2025

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

Please send your submissions, articles, stories, images, events and Chapter News (plain text with separate images preferred - not embedded in documents) for the next issue to the Editor by email to: news@wsmba.uk no later than **Friday 23rd May**.

Please all be safe, ride safe and keep well.



Scan me on your Phone



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