

## East Midlands Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association Distribute Funds to Local Charities

The Widows Sons are an international biker's association. All members are Freemasons & bikers. We are fully recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England, in fact they love the work we do. Our mission is to raise awareness of biking within Freemasonry and Freemasonry within the biking community. We actively support each other's lodges and charitable organisations. We also ride our bikes and have a great time achieving our objectives.

We have associate membership for non-masons, friends, family, partners etc. We like to be inclusive.

Nationally there are about 1300 Widows Sons members, and we are regionally divided into Chapters. Nottinghamshire is covered by the East Midlands Chapter, which also includes, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire & Leicestershire & Rutland.

The East Midland Chapter has recently been distributing money that was raised at our annual National Rally. This is a weekend hosted by a different Chapter each year. It was our honour to co-host with the West Midlands Chapter last July. The Rally is a weekend event where members from across the UK, and even from abroad get together and party. In total this event raised £18,000. East Midlands are distributing half and West Midlands the other half.

We have identified a number of good causes, that we wanted to help. We have tendered to go for local charities that help the homeless, children and the disadvantaged.

Before the Covid19 lock down a few of our members visited the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Stamford Hall, near East Leake, Nottinghamshire. This brand new facility provides medical care to service personnel that have brain injuries and have lost limbs. The £300 million facility was recently opened by the Prince of Wales. A cheque for £1000 was presented to the DMRC Benevolent Fund.

Whilst the public purse provides for most of the conventional therapies and medical treatments, DMRC Stamford Hall relies on The DMRC Benevolent Fund to support holistic, occupational and social integration initiatives and activities that contribute to the patients' successful outcomes.

Apparently, the Benevolent Fund struggles to attract donations as there is a misconception that the MOD provide the required cash. It was therefore great to help them with their cause, and the Widows Sons look forward to joining them on some of their future events.

Brian 'George' Dent & Nicola Norville provided the five members of the Widows Sons with a guided tour of the Centre and explained that they are employed full time the DMRC and work on a voluntary basis for the Benevolent Fund in their spare time.

Other charities that have received donations are:

Canaan Trust - £500

Doorways Derby - £1000

Cope Children's Trust - £500

Peter Le Marchant Trust - £500

Wishes 4 Kids - £500

Go Make a Difference - £500

Send a Child to Hucklow - £700

Once I was a Soldier - £500

These donations will be a great help in these troubled times when charities are experiencing a downturn in funding. Fantastic that we can help local charities but of course this was a national effort from the WSMBA.



Presentation of Cheque to the Nicola Norville of the DMRC Benevolent Fund  
Left to Right WBro Richard Wheelhouse PSGD, Bro Peter Gilbert, Nicola Norville, WBro John Perridge  
PPSGD, WBro Colin Brink