



# WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



Armed Forces Special



**ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT**

EMPLOYER  
RECOGNITION  
SCHEME

**GOLD AWARD**

# Support the Poppy Appeal 25th October – 8th November 2025

## Honour, Remember, and Support Our Heroes

Every November, the poppy stands as a symbol of remembrance, hope, and gratitude. The Poppy Appeal, organised annually by The Royal British Legion, invites us all to reflect on the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces community and to show our enduring support for veterans, serving personnel, and their families.

### How the Poppy Appeal Makes a Difference

Funds raised through the Poppy Appeal help provide:

- Financial assistance to veterans and their families
- Support for service personnel transitioning to civilian life
- Bereavement support and mental health services
- Community outreach and social connection for isolated individuals
- Employment and training programmes
- Assistance for those in urgent need

Every poppy sold helps fund life-changing support, ensuring that our heroes and their families are not forgotten.



### How Freemasonry Can Support the Poppy Appeal

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire has volunteered to help and support this year's appeal by providing much needed assistance to the Royal British Legion in the selling of poppies at supermarkets in your area.

#### How can you help?

By providing your time and effort at local supermarkets near you. Simply complete the registration using the form on the link below.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Should masonic centres of lodges wish to take on a supermarket as a whole project for the period please email me directly.

A goodly number of lodges make annual donations to their local RBL if lodges who do not have a local RBL wish to make a donation to the Poppy Appeal as a province please let me know

Yours sincerely and fraternally

**WBro Reg Sargeant BEM**

Armed Forces Covenant Representative





# Armed Forces Covenant VJ Event

**15th August 1945, hostilities ceased bringing World War II to an end.** Fast forward 80 years in an act of remembrance and celebration of life, Freemason from across the Province of Staffordshire came together at The Huntsman Pub in Cheadle to mark the date.



Huntsman Pub is renowned for their wood-fired pizza oven which was hard at work producing a variety of pizza and accompanying party food.

The afternoon was rounded off with community singing and great entertainment by Rebecca Done who engaged the audience and gave great renditions of the era much enjoyed by those who attended.

At the end of the day, military charities were the winners who will receive the profits from this event. Another terrific social event held in the Province and a huge thank you to those who were able to attend and make it a success.

W Bro Reg Sargeant, ProvGMentor, PPrJGW and the Provincial Armed Forces Covenant Representative, organised a social event on Saturday 16th August 2025 with the help and assistance of W Bro Kieran Devine PPrGStwd.

An excellent afternoon enjoyed by those able to attend from across the Province along with friends and family. W Bro Mick Seddon ProvGSwdB pulled out all the stops with an appropriate, and at times testing quiz for the era following which there was a raffle.

There was ample food for everyone. The





# Military veterans were Not Forgotten at drive-in event supported by Staffordshire Freemasons

**Over 100 veterans and serving military personnel** enjoyed a day of food, drink and entertainment on Thursday 18th September at an event organised by The Not Forgotten charity supported by current and veteran military Staffordshire Masons.



The occasion at Idlerocks Farm in Stone was organised by The Not Forgotten as part of their ongoing effort to ensure that those who have proudly served their country and are suffering as a result will not be forgotten.

The drive-in event was supported by Staffordshire Freemasons and the Masonic Charitable Foundation, who jointly pledged more £6,500 towards covering the costs of the event and volunteers to assist managing the



## THE NOT FORGOTTEN

event as part of their ongoing commitment to their Armed Forces Covenant.

**Guests were entertained by singers and dancers, including a Freddie Mercury tribute act.**

In attendance were the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Staffordshire, Brigadier Barry Smith CBE, along with the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, Cllr Steve Watkins, the Mayor of Stafford, Cllr Jenny Barron. From Staffordshire Freemasonry, the Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro John Lockley and his wife Jane, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V W Bro David Thomas, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Jeremy Roberts and his wife Trudie, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W Bro Dr Matthew Gibbons, in conjunction the Grand Superintendent Excellent Companion Michele Santopietro, and Deputy Grand Superintendent, Excellent Companion Ralph Howarth and his wife Jules.



There were 25 Freemasons including Lady Freemasons forming the support team of volunteers who helped park cars, serve drinks and food, sell raffle tickets and generally engage with the guests invited by The Not Forgotten to attend the event.



Col (Retd.) Richard Walker, Chief Executive of The Not Forgotten said ' This September, The Not Forgotten, in proud partnership with Freemasonry, delivered five spectacular Drive-In Concerts across the UK, including this one in Staffordshire—bringing music, joy, and connection to hundreds of veterans living with injury, illness, and isolation. We are extremely grateful to the Freemasons for their generosity, hospitality, and boots-on-the-ground support. Together, we've not only entertained—we've transformed lives'.



Provincial Grand Master John Lockley said, 'It is a pleasure and a privilege to support our veterans, together with The Not Forgotten am sure they have enjoyed the great entertainment and food here today, I look forward to the next time we can support our Armed Forces'.

### **The Not Forgotten - Restoring Dignity, Confidence and Independence to Veterans and Serving Personnel Since 1920**

The Not Forgotten is a 105-year-old charity supporting over 10,000 sick and injured veterans and serving personnel every year.

Their varied year-round programme of social events, outings and respite and challenge breaks brings the serving and veteran community together to improve physical and mental health, reduce isolation and loneliness, and re-establish the camaraderie and peer support veterans so often miss.

Since 1920, TNF has helped veterans and service personnel of all ages, ranks, backgrounds and disabilities across all three military services and the Merchant Navy.



They are wholly inclusive and non-judgemental, supporting individuals with any physical or mental injury or illness, whether acquired in service or developed later as a veteran. They collaborate with other military and civilian organisations nationwide to reach as many people around the country in need of support.



From respite holidays to Royal events, canoeing to concerts, and by providing TVs and tablets to those isolated at home, the charity brings veterans together, restores confidence and self-belief, lifts spirits and transforms lives.

Find out more at [www.thenotforgotten.org](http://www.thenotforgotten.org)

"I truly believe The Not Forgotten was my turning point back from the darkness. I have met people I now consider family and, although I still have many dark times, they are my guardian angels and The Not Forgotten is my light. "

Dale M.

**The Not Forgotten**



# Widows Sons Staffordshire Chapter Host Ride to the Wall 2025 from Tamworth Masonic Rooms

**On Saturday 4th October 2025**, the Widows Sons Staffordshire Chapter proudly hosted this year's Ride to the Wall from the Tamworth Masonic Rooms, marking another moving and memorable day of remembrance and brotherhood.



Despite the blustery challenges brought by Storm Amy, which buffeted riders throughout the morning, spirits remained high as around 80 Widows Sons and friends gathered for the start of the ride. As the wind howled through the car park, laughter, camaraderie, and the irresistible aroma of breakfast filled the air. A small army of bacon and sausage butties was consumed, washed down with plentiful mugs of tea and coffee — fuelling both bodies and spirits for the important day ahead.

No group ride is complete without a mechanical hiccup, and this year's honour



went to a Yamaha Thundercat that suffered a broken clutch cable just before departure. In true Widows Sons fashion, teamwork and ingenuity quickly saved the day. With a borrowed toolkit and some creative thinking, a Triumph clutch cable was adapted and fitted at the Masonic Rooms — proving once again that with a bit of resourcefulness (and a few seasoned hands), the ride must always go on.

Once repairs were complete and helmets donned, the convoy of bikes set off from Tamworth, their engines rumbling through the gusting winds on route to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas. There, alongside thousands of other motorcyclists, the Widows Sons joined the annual act of remembrance — a deeply moving event that honours the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces.

Upon arrival, the Masonic Garden at the Arboretum became the meeting point for Widows Sons chapters from across





## About Ride to the Wall

Ride to the Wall (RTTW) was founded in 2008 by Martin Dickinson, with the simple yet powerful aim of allowing motorcyclists to “ride to remember” those who can no longer ride by their side. Each year, thousands of riders from across the UK converge on the National Memorial Arboretum, forming one of the country’s largest annual gatherings of motorcyclists in remembrance. The event raises significant funds for the Arboretum and its ongoing maintenance, ensuring a lasting tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country.

Despite the challenging weather, Ride to the Wall 2025 once again demonstrated the strength of fellowship and remembrance that defines both the motorcycling and Masonic communities. The Widows Sons Staffordshire Chapter extend heartfelt thanks to all who attended, supported, and contributed — and to those who made sure that, whatever the weather, the ride went on.

*Lest We Forget.*

the UK. Amid the sea of cuts and chapter patches, there was a palpable sense of unity, respect, and shared purpose. The gathering culminated in a short and heartfelt ceremony of remembrance, led by W. Bro. John “Grumpy” Perridge, who offered words of reflection and gratitude to those who served and to those who continue to serve.

