



WYP Monthly Newsletter

Staffordshire Freemasons Digital News



Issue 19



“Never such innocence,
Never before or since,
As changed itself to past
Without a word — the men
Leaving the gardens tidy,
The thousands of marriages,
Lasting a little while longer:
Never such innocence again.”

Philip Larkin
1922 - 1985

It's not all about the Trenches

<u>First World War</u> (1914-1918)	<u>1944-45 Insurgency in Balochistan</u> (1944-1945)	<u>Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation</u> (1963-1966)
<u>Estonian War of Independence</u> (1918-1920)	<u>Northern Campaign</u> 2 September 1942 – December 1944	<u>Aden Emergency</u> (1963-1967)
<u>Latvian War of Independence</u> (1918-1920)	<u>Greek Civil War</u> (1944-1948)	<u>Ugandan Army Mutiny</u> (1964)
<u>Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War</u> (1918-1920)	<u>1945 Sheikh Bashir Rebellion</u> (1945)	<u>The Troubles</u> (1968-1998)
<u>Turkish War of Independence</u> (1919-1923)	<u>Indonesian National Revolution</u> (1945-1949)	<u>Second Cod War</u> (1972-1973)
<u>Third Anglo-Afghan War</u> (1919)	<u>Operation Masterdom</u> (1945-1946)	<u>Third Cod War</u> (1975-1976)
<u>Kuwait-Najd War</u> (1919-1920)	<u>Corfu Channel Incident</u> (1946-1948)	<u>Falklands War</u> (1982)
<u>Irish War of Independence</u> (1919-1921)	<u>Malayan Emergency</u> (1948-1960)	<u>Multinational Force in Lebanon</u> (1982-1984)
<u>Somaliland campaign (1920)</u> (1920)	<u>Korean War</u> (1950-1953)	<u>Gulf War</u> (1990-1991)
<u>Great Iraqi Revolution of 1920</u> (1920)	<u>1951 Anglo-Egyptian War</u> (1951-1952)	<u>Bosnian War</u> (1992-1995)
<u>1922 Burao Tax Revolt</u> (1922)	<u>Mau Mau Uprising</u> (1952-1960)	<u>Operation Desert Fox</u> (1998)
<u>Adwan Rebellion</u> (1923)	<u>Jebel Akhdar War</u> (1954-1959)	<u>Kosovo War</u> (1998-1999)
<u>Ikhwan Revolt</u> (1927-1930)	<u>Cyprus Emergency</u> (1955-1959)	<u>Sierra Leone Civil War</u> (2000-2002)
<u>Great Arab Revolt in Palestine</u> (1936-1939)	<u>Suez Crisis</u> (1956-1957)	<u>War in Afghanistan</u> (2001-2021)
<u>Jewish insurgency in Mandatory Palestine</u> (1939-1948)	<u>Border Campaign</u> (1956-1962)	<u>Iraq War</u> (2003-2009)
<u>S-Plan</u> 16 January 1939 – March 1940	<u>First Cod War</u> (1958-1961)	<u>First Libyan Civil War</u> (2011)
<u>Second World War</u> (1939-1945)	<u>Upper Yafa disturbances</u> (1959)	<u>Operation Shader</u> (2014-present)
<u>Afghan tribal revolts of 1944-1947</u> (1944-1947)	<u>Dhofar Rebellion</u> (1962-1975)	<u>Persian Gulf crisis</u> (2019-present)

STAFFORDSHIRE MASONIC REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Friday 10th November 2023

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM, ALREWAS

10-30am gather for 11-00 Service

Lest we forget



Firewalk

On the evening of Saturday 7th October at Brewood Cricket Club, Staffordshire, most of the senior Provincial team accompanied by other members and wives/partners did a sponsored charity fire walk across a red-hot fire pit in their bare feet (it was over 1,100°C).

The Provincial Grand Master R.W. Bro John Lockley and the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent Robin Stubbs both took part with their respective teams.

It was pleasing to see that everyone completed their walk with no burns or injuries, surprisingly some did it twice and even three times.

A big thank you to all that participated and to those who came to cheer them on, also a special thanks to the Deputy Grand Superintendent Ralph Howarth for organising the event.

The event raised over £10,000 which will go towards the Staffordshire 2024 Charity Festival in support of the Masonic Charity Foundation for distribution to charities.

Go to <https://fb.watch/n-nFS6kxvY/> to see John Lockley braving the firepit.



The Forget-Me-Not

Most Freemasons, and Freemasonry as a whole, are particularly mindful of our heritage. Both the most experienced Master Mason and the newest Entered Apprentice can appreciate the lessons and knowledge available to us through careful study. Our reverence for the wisdom of the liberal arts and sciences provides us with a unique perspective on the architectural foundations and columns of the built world, as well as a healthy respect for mathematical numbers and letters.

In addition, we see, as others do not, the internal beauty of the natural world, from the grandeur of the sun, stars, and moon, to the sacred and solemn symbolism of the most modest acacia plant. To be a Mason is to be in possession of a special gift, to always be in search of meaning, present or hidden, in the world around us.

The “forget-me-not,” is the informal name of the *Myosotis* flower, generally known for being small, with 5 blue or purple petals. Historically, it holds a place in the poetry of Wadsworth and Thoreau, medieval German legends, Christian hagiography, and English political history. For Freemasons, the forget-me-not is a symbol that reminds us of resilience and resistance, and of love for the Fraternity and its principles, even under distress and persecution.

From its inception in 1933, Nazi Germany placed a strong emphasis on propaganda and achieving a positive public perception of its ideological goals. This included legal, political, and civic restrictions against opponents of the regime, and those who were victims of its rigid racial and social ideology. Along with many social and ethnic groups - Freemasons were targeted for criminal prosecution and exclusion from society. This was achieved in a number of ways.

The Enabling Act of 1933 allowed for a governmental decree the following year that officially dissolved all Masonic Lodges within the Third Reich, confiscated their property, and formally barred those associated with Freemasonry from membership of the Nazi Party. In 1934-5, the Ministry of Defense ruled that soldiers, officers, and civilian personnel could not be members of Masonic organisations, and Hitler declared a victory over “international Jewry” in which he linked antisemitism to conspiracy theories about Freemasonry. Freemasons were considered political prisoners within the German concentration camp system, and thus forced to wear the inverted red triangle badge.

The head of the SD, the intelligence branch of the SS, Reinhard Heydrich, labeled Masons as “most implacable enemies of the German race.” He later demanded that Germany “root out from every German the “indirect influence of the Jewish spirit” -- “a Jewish, liberal, and Masonic infectious residue that remains in the unconscious of many, above all in the academic and intellectual world.” The SS featured two separate offices dedicated to pursuing Masonic properties and Freemasons, a process that would continue into the war and into countries under direct or indirect German control. Vichy France declared Freemasons ‘enemies of the state’ and in Fascist Italy, Mussolini spoke out against Jewish-Bolshevik-Masonic conspiracies.



Anti-Freemasonry took many forms under the Nazis, both individual and collective, and in official and informal capacities. The most popular charges were conspiratorial and anti-semitic. That is, Freemasonry was linked to a variety of Nazi enemies – Communism, the international press, and Jews. This was done in Party newspapers and literature, in political speeches, and through indoctrination events such as museum exhibitions. For example, mock lodge displays were set up featuring skeletons in Masonic regalia alongside Jewish symbols or imposing the square and compass over or alongside a six-pointed Star of David. Portraits of prominent Freemasons were displayed alongside a Torah scroll, and posters featuring the site of European radical political revolutions featured a Masonic apron.

Free association between and among Masons under Nazi control was dangerous. There were Brothers, however, who were determined not to give up their identity as Freemasons, even under these most difficult of circumstances. For example, at

Beatrice Charity

On Tuesday 8th August Leek freemasons were very pleased to welcome to the Masonic Hall in King Street Derek Hilyer, (chairman) and Di MacKay from the Beatrice Charity based on the canal in Cheddleton. The charity takes children with additional needs (be they physical, emotional, educational or social) on a canal boat named 'Beatrice' on pleasant, interesting and memorable outings on the local canal network in surroundings which are, for many, otherwise denied to them.

They were met by five members of the masonic hall, Selwyn Burton, Rob Barker, Dave Blakeman, John Carpenter and Bill Hulse, who were given an excellent overview of the charity and its support for children.

Derek and Di were then shown around the lodge room at Leek, (where Di tried on a masonic collar for size) and presented with a cheque for £500 to help with the running costs of the charity.

Derek Hilyer said 'We particularly appreciate help from local people – it reminds us how much our work is valued in Leek, and in North Staffordshire in general'.

the concentration and later prison camp at Esterwegen, Belgian political prisoners formed the Loge Liberté chérie (Beloved Liberty Lodge) and conducted meetings and ritual in secret from 1943-1944.

In 1926, the Grand Lodge of Germany held its annual meeting in Bremen in northern Germany. It adopted a blue forget-me-not badge as its emblem, which was produced by a local factory. By coincidence, the same facility was called upon to produce a blue forget-me-not lapel pin in 1938 by the National Socialist People's Welfare Organisation, to commemorate its Winterhilfswerk, or winter charitable contribution drive. The pin was a gift to donors. Thus, the blue forget-me-not, ostensibly a symbol of Nazi social policy, became a symbol of Freemasonry – a clandestine badge of membership.

This article was provided by Worshipful Brother Alex Lehning of Washington Lodge No. 3 in Williston, Vermont (2018)



NSRTL8355 Visit Great Queen Street

Freemasonry is not just about the Ritual.

It contains an inherent opportunity to expand our connections, build friendships and develop our own selves. As part of that process, and taking a large dose of what we have learned as Round Tables in terms of hospitality, this Lodge has engaged in an extensive social programme over the summer months.

Our Worshipful Master, W Bro Peter Nacson, fresh into the Chair in April, provided the backdrop to the summer social programme



with an excellent garden party which not even the rain could dampen where 35 from both Craft and Chapter had a very convivial afternoon. This was followed by a sunny Sunday afternoon easy walk and Sunday lunch attended by 40 people where the Bleeding Wolf at Scholar Green accommodated us.

Perhaps the highlight of the summer social events was our private tour of Great Queen Street in London, home of UGLE.

On this occasion, 20 of us tempted fate on the train to enjoy a day in London. The tour of Great Queen Street included a very detailed and interesting tour of the museum with our very knowledgeable guide; a tour of the Egyptian Lodge Room; followed by the main Lodge Room - resulting in gasps of amazement from those who have not yet had the opportunity to attend a meeting

there. We were unable to access the main foyer due to filming so were unable to see the War Memorial but that did not dampen the enthusiasm or interest and questions for our Tour Guide.

At the end of the tour, we were free to explore the new exhibition in the refurbished south hall of the museum and the main library before stopping off at Letchworth's!

We retired to the Masons Arms for some refreshment before a warm and sunny afternoon in Covent Garden and the "interesting" return journey north on the train.

Our social programme does not end there. Other events are planned and some are being planned to take us through to April 2024. What has been invaluable to the Lodge as a whole has been the increased connections with members of our Chapter who are not members of our Lodge; and, inviting prospective members and their partners to attend these events so they get to see the members of the Lodge and establish their own initial connections before being Initiated. This formula has worked well with the four who were initiated last season and four more to initiate this season. Those connections, that confidence, and the camaraderie that is developed at an early stage in this Lodge, pays dividends when it is time to put our Aprons on, and get down to the core business of the Lodge.

W. Bro. Paul M. Molley,
ProvGSuptWrks, PPrGStwd(Shrops)
Secretary & Preceptor
NSRTL No 8355



Keeping the Mayoral Link Alive Between Tamworth and Marmion Lodge

Bro. John Harper, currently Senior Deacon of Marmion Lodge 1060, is the latest in a very long line of Marmion Lodge Past Masters and Members to hold the Office of Mayor of Tamworth.

Indeed, Marmion Lodge is further honoured on this occasion as John's Deputy Mayor; Bro. Daniel Maycock, is also a member of Marmion Lodge 1060. Bro. Daniel Maycock was initiated into Marmion Lodge at their May 2022 meeting of the Lodge and plans are in place to Pass and potentially raise him in the coming Masonic year.

The link between Marmion Lodge and the Mayors of Tamworth goes back over 150 years and to coincide with this great connection, W.Bro. D.W. Philips - Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Past Senior Grand Deacon, conducted extensive research into this history,



and on 14th May 2015, as part of the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of Marmion Lodge, W.Bro Philips gave a presentation on the subject to several of the Lodge members and their Wives and Partners at Tamworth Town Hall, Market Street, Tamworth, where the Lodge was hosted by the Mayor of Tamworth at that time, W.Bro. Richard Kingstone.

W.Bro. Richard served as Mayor of Tamworth in 2015 and again in 2019, and is coincidentally also Master Elect of Marmion Lodge!!

W.Bro Philips's research was conducted primarily to identify Past Masters of Marmion Lodge and the following were identified as being both Past Masters and Mayors of Tamworth:

Name	Worshipful Master	Mayor
E. Hooper	1868	1870 & 1871
H. Hare	1872	1876
W. Tempest	1873	1878/1880 & 1900
T. Cooke Jr.	1874 & 1875	1879
H. Olver	1881	1888 & 1889
G. Hoskison	1891	1893
A.M. Sculthorpe	1911	1894/1895/1898 & 1899
C.F. Cast	1904	1904 & 1907
W.H. Brown	1918	1943
H.C. Goostry	1921	1923 & 1924
J.H. Whitehead	1929	1934
W.A. Peel	1932	1950
C.E. Crutchley	1933	1935
G.E. Perkins	1978	1971

W.Bro. Philips also discovered during his research that there is also evidence of other members of the Lodge serving their community and this Borough as Mayors and Councillors showing the strong links between Marmion Lodge and the Borough of Tamworth in general.

Staffordshire Provincial Grand Steward's Lodge 9567

Aims and Objectives

"Staffordshire Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge membership is drawn from those Brethren who have served in the rank of Provincial Grand Steward in the Province of Staffordshire or any other Province. Its aim is to promote best practice in Ritual and Ceremony and to provide such support for the Province at Provincial Grand Lodge, Provincial Visits to Private Lodges and to Private Lodges themselves as may from time to time be requested"

We welcome requests from Lodges to provide assistance or support for ceremonies that Lodges may be carrying out.

Should Lodges require our support please email: stewardslodge@staffordshirefreemasons.org.uk giving as much detail as possible.

All we ask is that suitable notice be given. Each request will be taken on its merits and the availability our members.

The Cornucopia is a symbol of plenty and abundance that stretches back to Classical Antiquity (a period of time in the Mediterranean that generally encompasses the Greco-Roman period). It is most commonly associated with Zeus, King of the Greek gods. When Zeus was born he

was hidden away by his mother to prevent Kronos, his father, from eating him, as he did Zeus' siblings.

Kronos in doing this was trying to prevent the fulfillment of a prophecy that one of his children would destroy him. In modern times the Cornucopia has been adopted the world over as a symbol of prosperity and abundance. This is especially true in Western society. For example in Canada an annual festival called Cornucopia is held. In several Central and South American countries the Cornucopia is depicted on their coat of arms. In the United States several states have the Cornucopia on their state flags and on state seals. It is most closely tied in the United States with the Thanksgiving Holiday.

For Freemasons the Cornucopia is most commonly known as the symbol for the stewards, often one of the duties of the stewards is to help with meal preparation and other times when nourishment is provided to the members of the lodge.



Lady the Labrador has a Litter of Nine Potential Guide Dog Puppies

Mike Rawle (P.Pr.A.G.M) and Chris Spratt's Guide Dog brood, Lady, has delivered another nine pups to be potential guide dogs. Eight of the nine pure Labradors are male, only one female, and they will all leave Chris and Mike at seven weeks old to be assessed at Guide Dogs National Centre before each goes on to a Puppy Raiser for a year to be socialised and to become well-mannered pups. After continuing assessments, those that are suitable will go on to Advanced Training at a Guide Dog Regional Centre, and then finally matched with a visually impaired partner. The few pups nationally that are assessed as suitable for breeding will instead stay permanently with a Breeding Dog Holder after moving on from their Puppy Raiser.

Lady's last litter of nine labradoodles resulted in six now waiting to be matched, two becoming Buddy Dogs for visually impaired youngsters (one being Gracie, raised by Chris and Mike from Lady's last litter), and one being withdrawn because of problems with allergies.

Guide Dogs are in need of Puppy Raisers, Breeding Dog Holders and Fosterers (the latter to look after dogs while Raisers are, for example, on holiday). No previous experience is necessary, training is given, there is full support from the Guide Dogs local team, and dog food, equipment and veterinary care are provided. Details and information can be found on the Guide Dogs website by following this link:

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



The Firs, Codsall welcomes Brethren and Friends

Following the closure of the Wolverhampton Masonic Centre a number of units have found a new home at The Firs, Codsall. They will be using the self-contained Function Room at the premises which has its own kitchen and in-house catering.



An introductory Sunday Lunch was held there on Sunday 10th September 2023 when 32 members of Dormston and Victoria Lodges and Chapters, together with family and friends came together to sample the facilities and catering.

To help the event along there was an 'A to Z' quiz, which left many scratching their heads (and others consulting Google I'm sure). The winners received bottles of 'Fizz' as a reward for their Zeal and knowledge!



There was also a very well provisioned Raffle offering numerous prizes which was well supported by the diners. It raised £135, which together with £100 profit made on the event will be donated to the 2024 Festival.

Everyone was very complimentary about the facilities at the venue (including the excellent range of Real Ales available). The efforts of the catering and serving staff were also well appreciated with a high standard of food available, and also plenty of it.

All in all it was an enjoyable Sunday afternoon with Brethren and friends and a good omen for the future of Freemasonry in Wolverhampton, with The Firs providing a welcome home following the turmoil of the last year.

Mac Jarvis

Charity Steward,
Dormston Lodge No 7821



Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society

- SMGS 2023 SEASON

What is the Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society?

Have you ever wondered how golf can bring people together? Look no further than the Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society. This society, established in 1968, is a group of golf enthusiasts who share a common bond of our Freemasonry and a passion for the game. We play against members from 7 other Provinces and this society has become a hub for golfers seeking friendship, competition, and a whole lot of fun.



Meeting 8 Times a Year

One of the highlights of the golf season is the regular meetings organised by the Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society. Members gather together 8 times a year to play golf, which is from May to September inclusive, socialise, and strengthen their bonds of friendship. These meetings provide the perfect opportunity for golfers of all skill levels to come together and enjoy a day on the course.

Trophies Galore

For those who love a little healthy competition, the Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society offers a chance to compete for trophies. Throughout the golf season, various tournaments and competitions are held, allowing members to showcase their skills and vie for the top spot. The thrill of

the game combined with the opportunity to bring home a trophy makes every round of golf even more exciting.

A Perfect Blend of Friendship and Competition

What sets the Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society apart is the unique blend of friendship and competition. While the society encourages friendly competition on the golf course, the camaraderie and banter among the members are what truly make this group special. Golf becomes a means to strengthen bonds and create lasting friendships.

Golf Season 2023: A Year to Remember

Looking back on our Golf Season of 2023, the Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society have had an incredible season. The calendar was full of exciting events, members have had a season filled with laughter, friendly banter, and unforgettable moments on the golf course. Whether you're a seasoned golfer or just starting out, this society welcomes golfers of all skill levels to join in the fun.

So, if you're looking for a golfing experience that goes beyond the game itself, consider joining the Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society.



It's a chance to meet new friends, challenge yourself on the course, and create memories that will last a lifetime. If anyone is interested in joining, you can contact Mark Ashton on msg.ashton@gmail.com or Paul Walters on paul_smgs@icloud.com. Golf Season 2024 is just around the corner, and the Staffordshire Masonic Golf Society will be ready to tee off!

PGM's Trophy - Wolstanton Golf Club

The final game of our exciting season was played at Wolstanton Golf Club in Newcastle-Under-Lyme on 21st September 2023. After a week of record breaking rainfall in the area, the course remained dry and playable. On the day the sun shone for our members and some fantastic golf was played. Simon Palmer returned to the clubhouse victorious, with Steve Mountford and Brian Cockersole coming second and third. The meal afterwards was a good time to reflect on our fabulous season of golf, camaraderie and fun. Here's to another great year of golf in 2024.



Sutherland Lodge of Unity No 460 raise £775 for Local Hospices

The Sutherland Lodge of Unity recently held a Chinese Banquet at the Arch Restaurant Newcastle, for members, families, and friends, to raise money for the Worshipful Master, Clive Alexander's chosen charities this year.

There were 73 seated for the meal and the raffle afterwards including a profit from the meal tickets raised £775 in total.



Clive thanked everyone for attending and for their generous support in achieving a notable total which will be allocated to the Dougie Mac and Donna Louise Hospices in the near future.

This meal used to be part of the annual social events in the Lodge before Covid forced the end of such gatherings, but it is hoped that this year's resumption will be the first of many more Chinese Banquets to come.

Well done Sutherland Lodge of Unity.

Lodge Golf Societies

Lodge of Honour No. 526 held their annual golf tournament recently at Ledene Golf Course, Codsall Wood, this was organised by Bro Greg Dunson and with four other brethren taking part, namely Bro's Tony Lee, John Walters, Daniel Reilly and Raj Sohi.

Last year's winner Raj Sohi was paired with regular golfers John Walters and Daniel Reilly whilst Tony Lee and Greg Dunson enjoyed a more relaxed round as both were recovering from injury.

It was a most enjoyable day was had by all and once the score cards were examined Raj Sohi won the day again, closely followed by Daniel Reilly who also won 'nearest the pin' on the 18th and John Walters came third. Tony Lee and Greg Dunson had respectable rounds and their scores were tied but thankfully they finished with no new injuries.

Greg Dunson later presented the winner's trophy to Raj Sohi who I believe may well have his handicap cut for next year !



Barr Beacon Lodge golfers visit to Gillingham Golf Club, Kent

Barr Beacon Lodge golf group is well known for its camaraderie and passion for the game. On a hot and humid Saturday on the 8th September, ten Lodge members travelled down to Gillingham to meet up with Lodge member, W.Bro. Chris Hill who is a member at the club.

Even with the hot weather they were welcomed to the lush fairways and immaculate greens in the picturesque surroundings overlooking the River Medway, with an abundance of trees to capture even the best players off guard !

The Barr Beacon Lodge golf group has been planning their visit to Gillingham for months. The trip is more than just a round of golf; it is a tradition that has now been going on for three years, bringing together Lodge members, friends and golf enthusiasts for another day of fun and relaxation.

Back at the clubhouse the prizes were awarded with Bro. Ryan Feenan taking top spot for the game and nearest the pin.

The day was concluded with a celebratory meal at a local Greek restaurant.

Once again the members gave a big thank you to W.Bros. Bob Harley and Chris Hill for the organising a great day which created lasting memories, reinforcing their passion for the game and their enduring friendship.



Lodge of Honour No.526

It was early in August this year W. Bro Geoff Wiggin the Almoner of the Lodge of Honour was in contact with Mrs Margaret Berrow, a wonderful 95-year-old lady, her late husband Alan having been a member of the Lodge.

She was quite upset and distressed that she was no longer able to cope and maintain her garden, it had been her pride and joy but had become incredibly overgrown and so following a call to arms a number of brethren from the Lodge attended her home.



On Saturday 12th August Bro's Gary Burton, Daniel Riley, Stewart Parsons, Greg Dunson, Karl Baumforth together with Geoff Wiggin and his wife Rosie leapt into action to clear the overgrown wilderness.

Considerable progress was made but the task wasn't completed and so Bro's Phil Eagle, Rob Marsh and his wife Yvonne, also Lee Wiggins and Geoff Wiggins with his wife Rosie returned the following Saturday.

The end result was amazing and completely transformed her garden, Margaret was most grateful to all the members of the Lodge and everyone involved felt great satisfaction in being able to help this lovely lady.



Visit to the Midlands Air Ambulance

The Provincial Membership Officer WBro Ralph Ritchey and WBro Dave Truman visited the new Air Ambulance Headquarters just north of Wolverhampton on the 25th October 2023 at the request of the PGM RW.

Bro John Lockley and the Prov Grand Charity Steward WBro John Skellern.

The move to these brand-new facilities is long overdue and the staff were effervescent in their compliments for the new centre as the old and cramped portacabin had outlived its usefulness.



The service includes three helicopters and a fleet of Critical Care cars working across six counties including Staffordshire, Shropshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, and the West Midlands and is the largest of the 21 Air Ambulance services operating in England.



The new facilities include two heated Heli pads which enable safe operations in freezing conditions as well as a two-helicopter hangar which enables the maintenance staff to service the Helicopters within a purpose built and heated facility.



The operations room, garages for the Critical Care cars and replenishment facility are all linked and there is a substantial emphasis on seamless operations and the layout of the building reflects this.

Due to the expectations of the service, there are multiple lifelike mannikins which are used to present injuries to trainees, and they can be placed into the Interactive training room to represent individuals who have had an accident. This room can be programmed to reflect a multitude of location scenarios i.e. rural, disco etc and includes temperature and noise levels so that staff can become accustomed to peripheral events whilst focusing on the injuries being presented by the training team and is an excellent training facility.



The Charity funding staff offices, rest areas and gym (for use by off duty staff) are all conveniently located within the building.

Many individuals and their families who have received help and assistance for the



donations and costs £12 million a year to operate our ongoing commitment to them is well founded. Each Helicopter call out costs in the region of £2,950 so please endorse our efforts to support this very worthwhile charity.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Provincial Grand Charity and WBro John Skellern or via the Air Ambulance website:

<https://www.midlandsairambulance.com/>
RG Ritchey

Air Ambulance are often unaware of what has happened during their accident due to medication given and they often want to acknowledge the support and care that they have been given by dropping in to the centre. To accommodate this there is a bespoke quiet room where patients and staff can quietly reflect on the incident, and it helps patients and families to gain some 'closure' to the traumatic events that have occurred.

The Province of Staffordshire has supported the Air Ambulance for many years and when you consider that this service is 100% funded by



Widows Sons at “Ride to the Wall”



Saturday 7th October dawned dry, warm and bright - a rarity for Ride to the Wall (RTTW), however never to be phased by weather, members of Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association (WSMBA) were already gathering at the Tamworth Masonic Rooms to join in the 16th year and acts of Remembrance and fundraising held annually to remember the names on the walls of the Armed Forces Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. This annual pilgrimage

has become an important event in many people's calendar, who with thousands of other motorcyclists and families, remember those that gave their lives serving their country since 1945.

Accompanied by friends and family, the Widows Sons have ridden in as a group for the last 5 years, although many have supported the RTTW since its inception.



Besides the remembrance it is a good opportunity for members of the nationwide organisation, with a membership in excess of 1,000 Masons and many more family and friends, to greet each other, exchange banter and just enjoy the good company.

The Widows Sons in Staffordshire has a good and growing membership - working in conjunction with Legge Lodge in Staffordshire, Lodge of Progress in Worcestershire and Derbyshire Motorcycle Lodge, they have introduced several dozen candidates to Masonry, along with mentoring Masons through the path of taking up Motorcycling. Burslem Chapter in Staffs and Derbyshire Motorcycle Chapter are now continuing that good work by offering similarly like minded members the opportunity to progress into a Royal Arch Chapter.



For more info, please see:
<http://www.widowssons-wmids.co.uk/>



Leek masons donation to Leek Air Cadets

Twice in one week Leek masons donated money to 60 (Leek) Squadron Air Cadets. The first donation of £500 made at the masonic hall was from all 7 lodges and orders who meet at Leek. The four members of the masonic hall, Selwyn Burton, Rob Barker, Dave Blakeman and John Carpenter were so impressed with Squadron Leader Robert Watmough, Matthew Cooper the chairman of the civilian committee and the four Air Cadets, Flight Sergeant Jasper Cooper, Sergeant Iloia Eaton and Cadets Emily Petitt and Harry Dean, that a week later a further cheque this time from St. Edwards Lodge at Leek, for £1,000 was presented to the squadron at their premises in Leek by John Arnold the current Master of St. Edwards Lodge.

Squadron Leader Watmough said 'As a self-funded youth organisation, donations such as these allow us to give a greater experience to more young people from the

local area. This latest donation will be put towards a new mini-bus for the squadron which will allow us to continue to provide the greatest range of opportunities to our cadets. Over the life of our current minibus, we have transported cadets to a wide range of events including; community support, adventure training, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme programmes, Camps and educational visits. We cannot thank the Leek branch of the Freemasons enough for their support and generosity.'



Compass Suite, The Green, Aldridge WS9 8SH

Friday 17th November 2023

ELVIS

IS IN THE

BUILDING!

Join us and see The UK's Top Elvis Tribute bringing his show to Aldridge for the first time!

All your favourite hits across the decades.

Everyone is welcome, doors open at 7pm

Bar Snacks available, Bar until 11pm

Tickets are £10 per person

Book your spot now, This will be a sell out!

Contact us on 01922 451123

Email: info@compass-suites.co.uk