



National Freemasons' Service of Remembrance Information Booklet for Attendees.



The Freemasons' Remembrance Garden at the
National Memorial Arboretum Alrewas
to be used as the focal point for:

An Act of Service remembering the sacrifice of
those Freemasons who have served their country.



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Introduction

This Information Booklet is for those who are attending the National Memorial Arboretum for the Masonic Act of Remembrance. It attempts to address many of the questions that you may have.

There are many links within the document which are best utilised with either a PC or smart phone.

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1. Before Leaving Home.

This section acts as a memory jogger of what you should consider before attending the National Memorial Arboretum.

Have you booked your attendance via this [booking page?](#)

Have you booked and paid for your meal via the email link sent to you after booking your attendance?

Ensure that you know where you are going to and allow enough travelling time.
The address of the National Memorial Arboretum is

National Memorial Arboretum
Croxall Road
Alrewas
Staffordshire
DE13 7AR

Entrance to the site is free, however if you are travelling by car or motor bike etc., it is best to book in advance so that you are guaranteed parking. Bookings can be made via this link at reduced rates: [Book Tickets](#), currently this is £4.00.

For Disabled and Blue Badge visitors there are Mobility Scooters available for hire for those over 16 years of age.

Bookings can be made via this link: [Book Mobility Scooter](#).

There are 15 Disabled parking spaces located close to the Remembrance centre which are allocated on a first come first served basis.

2. What to Wear.

For those who have an active part in the ceremony.

Masonic morning dress with a short jacket.

For other attendees.

Masonic morning dress with a short jacket.

Or a dark lounge suit.

Or a dark Blazer with service breast badge.

Or Service Dress Uniform.

Plus, full size medals, Regimental or Service Tie and Beret or Service Headdress is optional. The wearing of a poppy is actively encouraged and should be on the left lapel.

Ladies should wear something appropriate for the season and the event.

The site is open to the elements and can at times be very windy or overcast. Consequently, participants should consider wearing overcoats or raincoats in anticipation of bad weather.



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3. Getting Here.

Those travelling by road:

The Arboretum is located just off the A38 / A513 between Lichfield and Burton upon Trent. The site is signposted using the local brown signs.

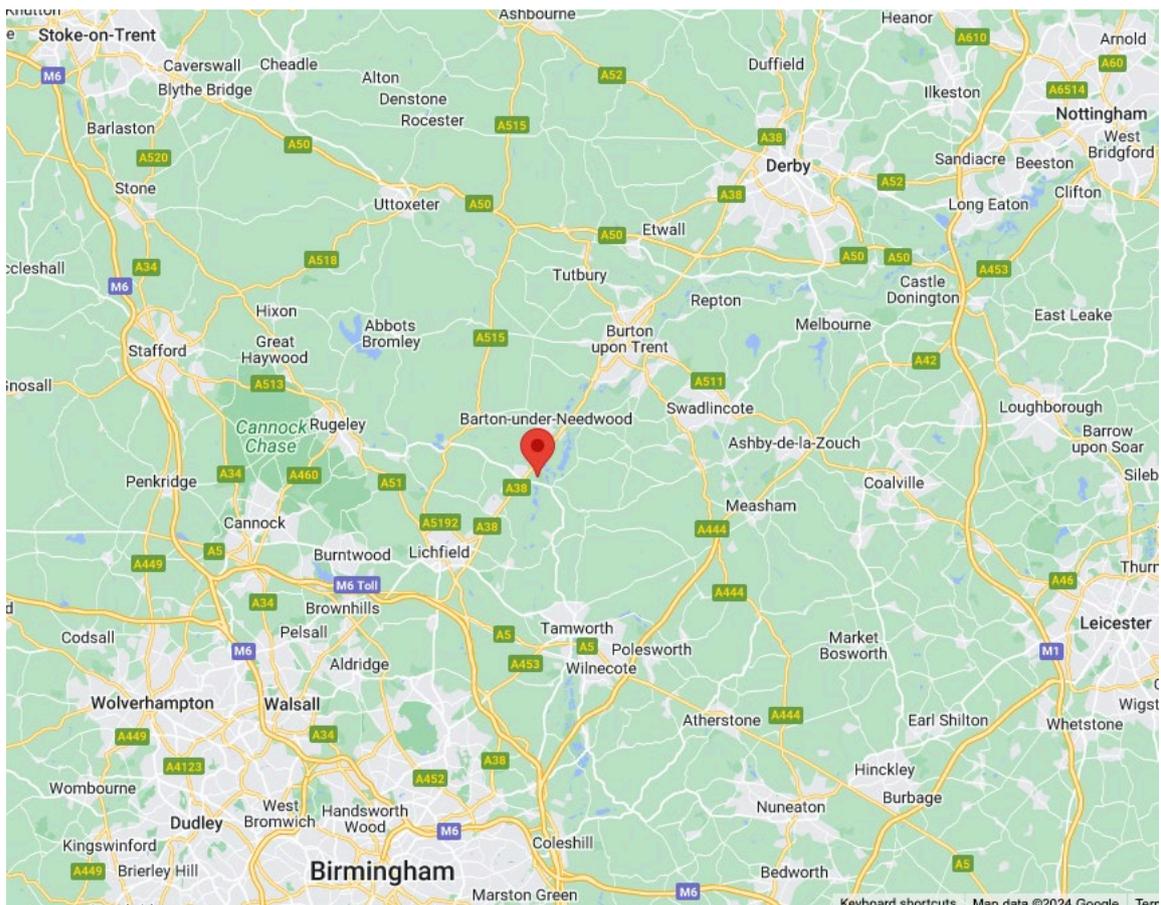
Those travelling by train:

Lichfield Trent Valley is the closest railway station and is five miles away. Lichfield City, although further away, is located close to the bus station and provides better public transport links.

Many visitors prefer to book a taxi directly from either train station to complete their journey, **City Cars** (01543 254 999) and **Ambassador Taxis** (01283 544 700 / www.ambassadors-executivecars.co.uk) offer special pre-booked taxi rates for Arboretum visitors.

There is ample parking either on the car park adjacent to the main building or in the overflow car park some 300 yards further on, please allow enough time to walk to the venue.

Location of the NMA.





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4. The National Memorial Arboretum.

The National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) are a UK registered charity and 150-acre visitor site on the edge of the National Forest in Staffordshire. Part of the Royal British Legion, but a separate legal body, they exist to ensure that:

- The unique contribution of those who have served and sacrificed is never forgotten.
- The baton of Remembrance is passed on through the generations.
- There is a year-round space to celebrate lives lived and commemorate lives lost.

The Arboretum welcomes over 300,000 visitors to site each year, including over 20,000 young people for formal and informal learning visits. Visitors can enjoy discovering over 400 memorials nestled amongst some 25,000 trees, experience riverside walks and participate in a wide variety of daily activities: guided walks, land train tours, memorial talks, exhibitions, and buggy tours.

Each year around 250 events take place on site, from small intimate services of Remembrance to set piece events like Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday, a summer proms and Armed Forces Day.

5. On Arrival.

All visitors should enter the site via the Remembrance Hall where you will be greeted and directed to waiting areas.

Please try to arrive no later than 1000 am so that the organisers can brief everyone concerned in a timely manner prior to the service starting.

There is ample refreshments and toilet facilities available prior to the event.

The location of the Memorial Service is a short 5-minute walk from the main hall and there will be guides to direct you.

Please let the organisers know if you are intending to lay a wreath as you will need to be briefed and positioned appropriately. To purchase a wreath, use [this link](#).

Please let the organisers know if you are carrying a Banner as you will need to be briefed and positioned appropriately.

6. After The Service Has Ended.

There will be ample opportunity to chat with friends and dignitaries and to have an organised light meal. This can be followed by tours of the NMA or for quiet reflection before leaving the site. There is an appropriate outlet where you can purchase suitable items for yourself or loved ones. More details will be made available on the day.



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7. The Masonic Garden.

The original scheme was designed in 2001.

The raising of the funds necessary to finance the project were raised locally by Staffordshire masons. In 2016 the financial position changed when UGLE underwrote a major part of the projects cost to enable it to be completed by 2017 to coincide with the Tercentenary celebration of Grand Lodge.

The various textures and colours of the natural stone have been selected to emphasise the different aspects of construction and the symbolism and historical base of Freemasonry. The stonework being of smooth buff sandstone with the columns constructed in Cotswold Gold Limestone to resemble molten brass. This symbolism highlights both the ability and craftsmanship of the operative masons but also the historical significance of the ceremonies upon which freemasonry is based.

The paving also has great significance; the chequered paving being the most obvious. The paving in front and behind the memorial is blue and is an approach to the inner part of our garden. This paving is laid in rows of three, five and seven divided by inserted brass strips.

There are several other details not described here and their significance will be relevant to freemasons. Our Masonic Memorial Garden will be a memorial for which all freemasons look forward to visiting, and for which they can be justly proud.

An official opening and luncheon took place on the 18th April 2017 as part of the Tercentenary celebrations of Grand Lodge.

8. Accommodation.

There is accommodation suitable for all tastes within the vicinity of the National Memorial Arboretum

[Burton On Trent Hotels | Book Cheap Hotels In Burton On Trent | Premier Inn](#)

[Award-Winning Spa Hotel | Hoar Cross Hall | Staffordshire | Barons Eden](#)

[Hilton St George's Park Hotel - Best Rates on Hilton.com](#)

[The best available hotels & places to stay near Alrewas - Alrewas hotels](#)

[\(booking.com\)](#)

9. Things To Do.

Depending upon your length of stay there are many attractions around the National Memorial Arboretum. A small selection is below.

[Lichfield Cathedral](#)

[Calke Abbey National Trust](#)



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[Erasmus Darwin House](#)

[Claymills Victorian Pumping Station](#)

[Stapenhill Gardens](#)

[Barton Marina](#)

[The Old Guildhall Prison Cells](#)

10. Summary.

This is the first National Remembrance Service for the United Grand Lodge of England, and The organisers sincerely hope that you have had 'A Day to Remember'.

It is very important that we as an organisation try to deliver the best event possible and it is only by receiving your feedback that we can develop and improve.

We thank you for your support and participation. Please let us know what you think went well, and more importantly what we could improve upon.

11. Useful Links.

[The AA Route Planner.](#)

[The National Memorial Arboretum.](#)

[Trainline.](#)

[Accommodation.](#)

[RBL Wreath Purchase.](#)



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Your Notes.