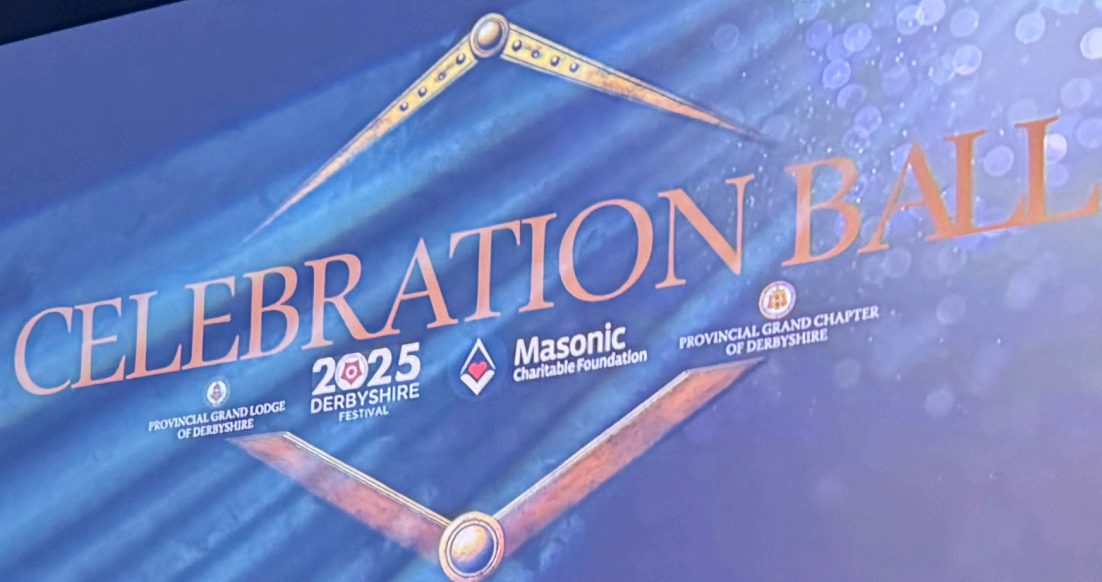




Derbyshire Circle

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A Word from THE BOSS...

As the summer sun yeilds to the crisp embrace of Autumn... we begin to gather once more, refreshed and invigorated, to embark upon a new Masonic season packed with promise and possibility.

I trust that the summer break has been a season of happiness and renewal—a time to recharge and lift our spirits.

Craft attraction events continue to prove popular through the advertising undertaken by the Comms and Membership Teams, opening up Derbyshire Freemasonry to a wonderful mix of new members from across the Province. We have also held our first round of attraction events for Royal Arch, and may they provide the means to build membership across all of Derbyshire's Chapters

July saw the culmination of the Derbyshire 2025 Festival with the total amount raised being revealed at the Celebration Ball held at Vaillant Live in Derby at the beginning of September, A wonderful evening with music and song delivered by several of our very talented members.

With a new Derbyshire Lodge on the horizon and the consecration of a new daylight Chapter, things are looking very bright for, what I believe, is a wonderful Province.

As we move forward, let us meet the challenges and opportunities ahead with fresh energy and steadfast dedication. May we continue to live out the values of Integrity, Friendship, Respect, and Service—within

our Lodges and Chapters, and in our wider lives. Together, we can strengthen our fraternity so that it remains welcoming, supportive, and inspiring, making a meaningful impact on both our members and the communities we serve.

The path before us is filled with promise. Let us face it with enthusiasm and determination, confident that, united, we can accomplish great things.

Ian Copestake

Ian Robert Copestake
Provincial Grand Master &
Most Excellent Grand Superintendent for Derbyshire



Why Do Freemasons Wear White Gloves?

White gloves are a distinctive feature of Masonic regalia, though traditions vary.

Some lodges present them to a new initiate, others expect members to purchase their own, and a few do not use them at all.

The chief symbolism is equality. In earlier times, rough or calloused hands marked out manual workers, while smooth hands suggested a clerical occupation.

By covering their hands, Masons ensured that no one could judge another's background, reinforcing the idea that all were equal "on the level." Gloves also had a practical origin among stonemasons, who wore them to protect their hands from lime mortar.

The practice has deep roots. Records from 1559 mention gloves being presented in a Scottish lodge, but the custom goes back further.

In Christian tradition, clergy wore white gloves during services to symbolise purity, clean hands, and freedom from corruption. Over time, white gloves became a wider symbol of dignity and integrity, adopted in courts, the military, ceremonial roles, and even fine dining.

In Freemasonry, gloves symbolise purity and innocence, much like the lambskin apron.

Some lodges present a second pair for the initiate's Lady, reflecting the respect Freemasons hold for women and family.

Ceremonial rules also apply: candidates for the three degrees do not wear gloves, nor does a Master Elect when taking his obligation on the Volume of the Sacred Law, since the hand must be uncovered when touching it.

In Grand Lodge, gloves are considered essential regalia, while in private lodges their use is left to the Master, who should inform visiting brethren if gloves are required. Beyond formality, the white gloves serve as a constant reminder: Freemasons are equal, their actions must be

guided by clean intentions, and their hands should never be "sullied" in word or deed. To wear them with pride is to affirm the values of integrity, equality, and brotherhood at the heart of Freemasonry.

W Bro Professor Brian Pol-lard. MD, PPrJGW



A New Lodge Takes Flight: Where Freemasonry Meets Aviation

With Derbyshire's rich aviation heritage, it's only fitting that a new Masonic lodge inspired by flight is preparing for take-off.

Set to launch in 2026, this unique lodge aims to bring together Freemasons who share a love of aviation — from pilots and engineers to model aircraft builders, plane spotters, and aviation historians.

Though still in its formative stages, the lodge has already gathered a dedicated crew of experienced Masons and is now inviting others to join as founders or early members... Think of it as boarding at the departure gate — the engines are warming up, and the journey promises to be something special.

This is not just a lodge for aviators, but for anyone fascinated by the magic of flight. Members will enjoy a shared camaraderie, engaging discussions, and the opportunity to celebrate both Masonic values and Derbyshire's legacy in aviation.

What to Expect:

- A Brotherhood of Aviation Enthusiasts: Connect with like-minded individuals.
- A Distinctive Masonic Experience: An environment tailored to your passion.
- Honouring Derbyshire's Aviation Past: Celebrate the region's contributions to flight.
- Support for a Good Cause: The lodge aims to support Aerobility, a UK charity offering flying experiences to those with disabilities.

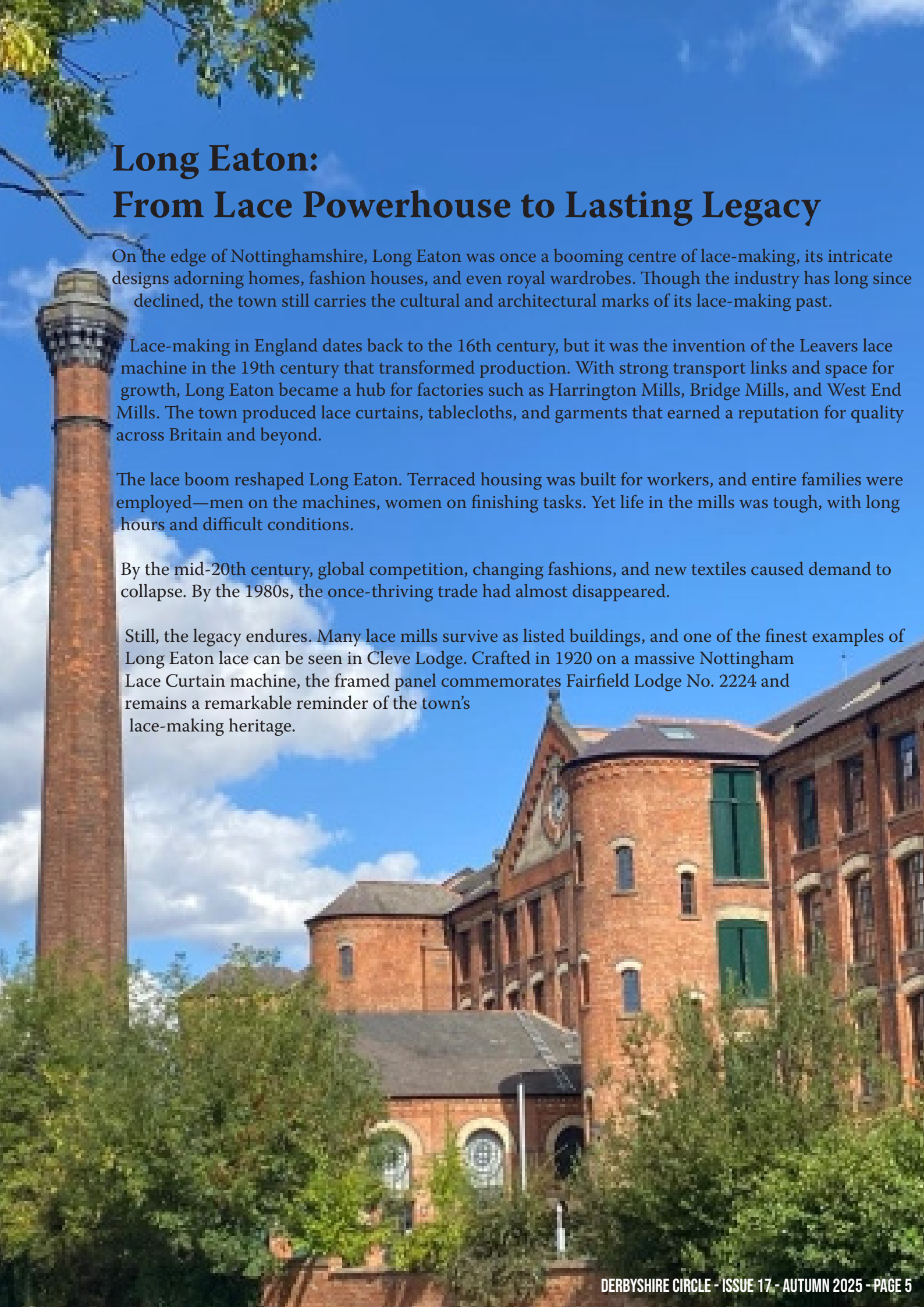
If you're ready to be part of something truly unique, now is the time to get on board.

Join the Formation Flight!

To express interest or learn more, contact
Anthony Cundall at awjcundall@gmail.com

Let's take flight together!





Long Eaton: From Lace Powerhouse to Lasting Legacy

On the edge of Nottinghamshire, Long Eaton was once a booming centre of lace-making, its intricate designs adorning homes, fashion houses, and even royal wardrobes. Though the industry has long since declined, the town still carries the cultural and architectural marks of its lace-making past.

Lace-making in England dates back to the 16th century, but it was the invention of the Leavers lace machine in the 19th century that transformed production. With strong transport links and space for growth, Long Eaton became a hub for factories such as Harrington Mills, Bridge Mills, and West End Mills. The town produced lace curtains, tablecloths, and garments that earned a reputation for quality across Britain and beyond.

The lace boom reshaped Long Eaton. Terraced housing was built for workers, and entire families were employed—men on the machines, women on finishing tasks. Yet life in the mills was tough, with long hours and difficult conditions.

By the mid-20th century, global competition, changing fashions, and new textiles caused demand to collapse. By the 1980s, the once-thriving trade had almost disappeared.

Still, the legacy endures. Many lace mills survive as listed buildings, and one of the finest examples of Long Eaton lace can be seen in Cleve Lodge. Crafted in 1920 on a massive Nottingham Lace Curtain machine, the framed panel commemorates Fairfield Lodge No. 2224 and remains a remarkable reminder of the town's lace-making heritage.

On Saturday 6th September, Derbyshire Freemasons came together at Vaillant Live in Derby for a spectacular celebration — the grand finale of the Derbyshire 2025 Festival. And what a finale it was!

Each Derbyshire Masonic Lodge was set an individual target to reach and the work began!

Derbyshire Freemasons have been abseiling from Millersdale Viaduct, Go Karting, Racing down zip wires in Wale and walked on fire. They have run The Great North Run, cycled coast to coast and one Freemason in his 80's even climbed Mt Kilimanjaro and thats not the half of it!

After almost six years of dedication the final total was an outstanding **£1,780,218** — smashing the original target by over ¼ million.

Under the direction of W.Bro Rava Kumar-Sahnan, the nighth was opened by W.Bro Adrian Harper, calling the room to order by playing the bugle.

Dignatories VWBro. Les Hutchinson, CEO of the MCF revealed the amount, followed by talks by Rt W.Bro James Long, President of the MCF, our own PGM Rt W.Bro Ian Copestake & The Assisant Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, Rt W.Bro Steven Varley. After the formalities W.Bro Andy Graves, Provincial Grand Communications Officer for Derbyshire hosted the entertainment for the evening with live performances by Grace Hindle, Bro Chris Baldwin and finishing off the night with Matt Holbrook performing his Robbie Williams Tribute Show.

The monies raised will be used by the Masonic Charitable Foundation to fund projects, groups and organisations helping those who need it across the county.

This achievement is more than just a number. It represents the commitment of Freemasons, families, and friends across Derbyshire who have given their time, energy, and support to make a real difference, every contribution has played a vital role in reaching this milestone.

The evening itself was filled with pride, friendship, and celebration — a true reflection of what Freemasonry is all about.

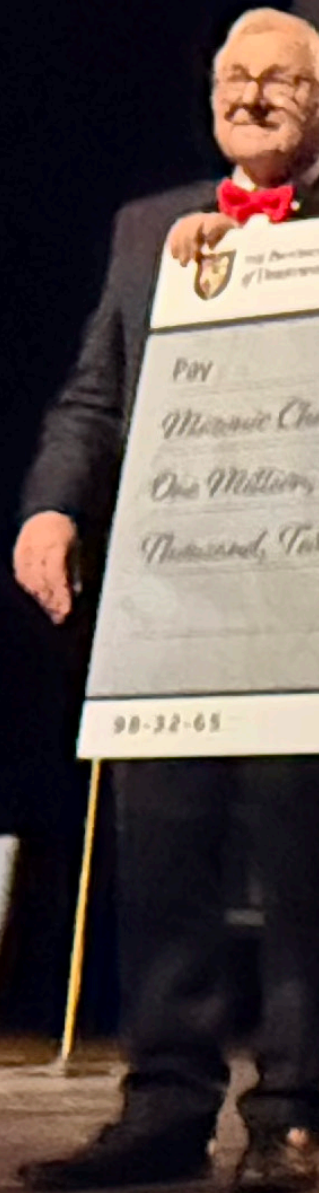
Together, they've shown what can be achieved when a community unites behind a shared goal.

To everyone who played a part, thank you!

Derbyshire Freemasons have once again proven that they can rise to any challenge — and exceed expectations!

To view pictures of this spectacular night visit www.derbysgiremason.org/gala2025

A Re



Night to remember!



The Bleaklow Bomber

The story of the B-29 Superfortress in Derbyshire

A Region of Stories

The Derbyshire Dales are dotted not just with trig points, but also with the twisted remains of wartime aircraft. Each wreck carries its own tragic tale, but none is as renowned—or as visited—as the Bleaklow Bomber.

Over Exposed:

A Mission Too Far

“Over Exposed” belonged to the 16th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 91st Reconnaissance Group, 311th Air Division of the U.S. Air Force. Its nickname came from its unusual assignments—flying over atomic bomb testing sites to photograph and record data in the aftermath of nuclear detonations.

On 3 November 1948, the aircraft departed RAF Scampton at 10:15 a.m., heading for the U.S. Air Force base at Burtonwood. Captain Landon Tanner and co-pilot Harry Stroud were flying entirely by instruments due to the heavy cloud cover blanketing the moors. Believing they had cleared the high ground of Bleaklow, they began to descend. At around 11:00 a.m., the B-29 slammed into the moor at 610 metres above sea level, just northeast of the summit of Higher Shelf Stones. The aircraft exploded in flames. All 11 crew and two military passengers were killed instantly.

The RAF Harpur Hill rescue team, already training nearby, rushed to the site. By the following morning, the bodies had been removed to Burtonwood. Among the wreckage, remarkably, more than \$7,000 in wages survived and was recovered by military police.

Remembering the Fallen

In 1988, servicemen from RAF Finningley erected a memorial at the crash site, complete with a plaque honouring those who lost their lives.

That same year, a young five-year-old Matthew Wainwright stood by the newly installed memorial with his family. More than three decades later, he returned—this time with his own son.



Following in His Father's Footsteps

Jesse, who shares his father's fascination with World War II history, was eager to see the Bleaklow Bomber for himself. The four-mile hike across the windswept moorland tested him, but he persevered,

proud to stand where his father once had.

Of course, Matthew couldn't resist reminding Jesse that he had made the same hike at age five, in the harsher weather of the 1980s, and in nothing more than wellington boots!

For those willing to make the jour-

On a crisp March Sunday, Bro. Matthew Wainwright, Master Elect of St. Werburga Lodge No.4147, and his son Jesse set out along the legendary Snake Pass in the Derbyshire Peak District. Their mission: to find the haunting remains of a U.S. Air Force B-29 Superfortress.

Known officially as “Over Exposed” but remembered locally as the Bleaklow Bomber, the wreck has become one of the most poignant reminders of aviation history scattered across the Peak District’s rugged moors.



ney, the Bleaklow Bomber remains a solemn and unforgettable site—a place where history, sacrifice, and memory converge high above the Peak District.

There are lots of other Crash sites in the Derbyshire peaks finding them can be a tricky feat of navi-

gation. Helpfully, Several books exist that detail the location and the crash report, two of which are Dark Peak Aircraft Wrecks 1 & 2 by Ron Collier ISBN 9780850524574 / 978050523362

Derbyshire Directory...

National

United Grand Lodge of England & Supreme Grand Chapter of England - ugle.org.uk

The Order of Women Freemasons - owf.org.uk

Freemasonry for Women - hfaf.org.uk

Masonic Charitable Foundation - mcf.org.uk

Provincial Websites

Craft - derbyshiremason.org

Royal Arch - derbysroyalarch.co.uk

Porchway Club - porchwayclub.org.uk

Derbyshire Freemasons' Podcast

derbyshiremason.org/podcast

Online Learning

Solomon - solomon.ugle.org.uk

Building Together

ugle.org.uk/discover-freemasonry/blog/introducing-building-together

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Social Media

Search social media for 'derbyshirefreemasons'



Front Cover - 2025 Celebration Ball, Vaillant Live, Derby, 6th September 2025
Image credit, W.Bro Andy Graves ProvGCO

Derbyshire Circle is produced by the Derbyshire Grand Communications Team
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