

# Chesterfield Freemasons

Welcoming and charitable

Words: Bekah Anstey

Images: The Freemasons

I was offered the chance to go and have a nose around the newly refurbished Chesterfield Masonic Hall, home of the Chesterfield Freemasons. I didn't have a clue what to think before I arrived, but I was looking forward to seeing inside a building that had been around long before my time and learning more about the history of The Freemasons.

I was greeted by the lovely Malcolm Smith – the architect involved in the planning and facilitating of all the fantastic renovations. The building is a modern but still a very traditional space with an abundance of character and charm. The work they have completed over the years has really added value to the space and made it a welcoming venue for events and meetings.

Malcolm talked me through all the support they have given our community and I was overwhelmed. I had no idea what The Freemasons did! There's a huge amount of local charitable giving that takes place, including supporting Ashgate Hospice, Fairplay, Chesterfield Boy Scouts, The RAF, Umbrella, The Bus Stop Cafe and many local churches. On top of this they give to national charities and have a pledge of supporting larger charities, they gave over 2 million pounds at the last national festival they ran. Great job!

With all the awareness about mental health and having a safe space to go to, I feel The Freemasons is possibly that safe space for a lot of local good men. It offers community spirit, support to each other and a sense of belonging. That's a fantastic thing in my book!

I asked Malcolm what the Freemasons meant to him and he said

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*'Goodwill in the community'*

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Malcolm has been a member for over 30 years, that's some commitment!

Freemasonry is one of the worlds oldest non-religious, non-political, fraternal and charitable organisations, they welcome new member applications and often open their doors to the members of the public to raise more money!

Their next event is on:

*2nd of November  
The Bluebirds at Scarsdale Lodge  
72 Saltergate  
S40 1JR*



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[www.scarsdale lodge.co.uk](http://www.scarsdale lodge.co.uk)

