

HEALTH



From left, Jyoti Shah, consultant urological surgeon for Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Michael Hitchcock, the Derbyshire provincial grand charity steward, and Sarah Minns, a urology advanced nurse practitioner, are working together on the prostate screening programme.

Picture: Chris Maddox

# Freemasons signing up for prostate screening scheme

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Freemasons from across Derbyshire will be taking advantage of a test to check for prostate cancer as the next stage of a project to take screening for the disease into the community gets under way.

Inspire Health – Fighting Prostate Cancer has gone from strength to strength since being launched by Jyoti Shah, a consultant urological surgeon for Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, based at Queen’s Hospital. The campaign aims to get more men to have their prostate checked for signs of the male cancer.

The idea is to go out into the community, to places where men already feel comfortable, so they are more likely to take part in screening. So far this has been carried out at the Pirelli Stadium, with Burton Albion Football Club chair-

man Ben Robinson a big supporter of the project, and Burton Caribbean Association in a bid to encourage more African-Caribbean to get tested.

This time the screening sessions will be heading for Freemasonry lodges in Derbyshire, and another at the Pirelli Stadium, to test men who are Freemasons. There will be two days of screening in November, two in December, two in January and one date in February.

In Derbyshire there are nearly 2,850 Freemasons and 300 have already signed up for the screening. The team has spaces to screen around 350 and the remainder are expected to fill up fast.

Michael Hitchcock, the Freemasons’ Derbyshire provincial grand charity steward, said as soon as he opened up the suggestion he was inundated with people wanting to take part.

He said: “I think it’s fabulous that the Burton Hospital team are so keen to raise awareness of prostate cancer

and we are extremely pleased to be working with them and to be able to make a donation in order to support their on going work within our communities.

“We are constantly making charitable donations within our local communities and providing skills and time to further enhance our charitable work.

“We shall be donating some money to the Fighting Prostate Cancer campaign to support the ongoing work they do in the community against this very common male cancer.”

Miss Shah said: “It is fantastic. The project is growing and it is a really positive message going out to the community. We hope to continue to build on this.

“It has already been a phenomenal success in the take up of appointments with the Freemasons, so quickly as well.”

More information on Inspire Health – Fighting Prostate Cancer is available at <https://fightingprostatecancer.co.uk/>

## AIMS OF THE ORGANISATION

Freemasonry is one of the world’s oldest and largest non-religious, non-political, fraternal and charitable organisations. Its roots lie in the traditions and ceremonies of the medieval stonemasons who built cathedrals and castles and some of the rituals are still celebrated by the group today.

The values behind Freemasonry are about making good men better with individuals aiming to

shape their lives around five core principles, says the organisation. Here’s what it says Freemasons stand for:

**Integrity:** To say what they mean and keep promises.

**Kindness:** Although families come first, the organisation believes in playing a key role in communities and give time and money to charitable ventures.

**Honesty:** Freemasons pride themselves on openness, about

what being a Freemason means for them.

**Fairness:** To treat everyone as equal – to listen to others, explore any differences and look for common ground.

**Tolerance:** Respect the opinions of others and behave with understanding towards them.

Last year, the national charity donated £33 million to national and local charities as well as natural disasters.

ROAD SAFETY

## Drivers flout law on using their phones

A safety watchdog has told how prosecutions for motorists using their phones behind the wheel have spiked after new laws came into force.

Michelle Shaker, from Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership, has spoken out after recent research suggested millions of Britons may still be breaking the law.

Since March 1, drivers who use a phone face receiving six points on their licence and a £200 fine – up from the previous penalty of three points and a £100 fine.

While 89% of drivers surveyed by the RAC said they were aware of the law change, 26% of those who knew of the tougher penalties admitted regularly using their phone at the wheel.

Ms Shaker said community speed watch volunteers in Staffordshire were reporting back to Safer Roads Partnership on numbers of drivers seen using their phones.

“At this stage we are only monitoring the data captured by the volunteers. In the future we may send warning letters or an educational leaflet alerting drivers of the dangers.”

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