



Lewis Collins Memorial

Garden 2 - Our Friends - Allied Special Forces Memorial Grove National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffs DE13 7AR

The concept of a memorial for Lewis Collins originally came from Pete Scholey ex SAS & Parachute Regiment soldier. This was suggested over 6 years ago and although now complete, fans are still wishing to add plants to enhance the memorial and the garden surrounding it. This is very welcome as we wish to increase the variety and all year round colour in the Grove.

Pete's connection with Lewis came about because he helped train him when he was trying to join 21 SAS and attending the selection course based in Hereford.. Pete became good friends with Lewis and Michelle and this was further enhanced when Pete helped him with training for the film "Who Dares Wins" Pete has remained in contact with Michelle and the boys ever since.

The Allied Special Forces Memorial Grove was established in 2003 when we took over a 3 acre scrubland at the NMA. Just over a year ago we planted an Autumn Flame tree as part of our project to enhance Annette's Memorial Way, which passes through Our Friends Garden 2. This was close to a tree commemorating Reg Taylor who also would have helped train Lewis during his selection and a tree that Pete and Lyn Scholey had dedicated to young Alex Smith aged just 9 when he lost his life to cancer.

Beside the tree are a Lilac and a Rhododendron, and soon with the generosity of fans perhaps a Hydrangea hedge could be formed using "Limelight". This will form a backdrop to the memorial, be a haven for wildlife and contribute to the Grove.

The memorial will be officially unveiled on Remembrance Sunday 8th November after our annual service, which remembers all those commemorated in the Grove. This commences at 12 noon and is an open event at the Sun Room.

I hope that this brief introduction to the memorial is of interest.

**Regards, Mike Colton, Secretary & Founder
Allied Special Forces Association Registered Charity No. 1156925**