



Friends of Spital Cemetery (FoSC) Newsletter number 13 December 2017

Our temporary logo this month features one of the magnificent head stops from the chapels.

Patron of the Friends of Spital Cemetery

We are delighted to announce that Professor James Stevens Curl has graciously agreed to become the first Patron of the Friends of Spital Cemetery. Some of you will have heard Professor Curl on our Cemetery Day talk about the history of the Garden Cemetery Movement. He is a legend in this field and we are honoured to have his support and name associated with Spital Cemetery.

Committee.

At the AGM in October those present at the meeting elected a new committee. It comprises:

Chair: Liz Cook

Vice-chair: Ed Fordham

Secretary: Thomas Church and Daniel Botham

Treasurer: Margaret Hersee

Other members of the committee: Janet Murphy, Lyn Pardo, Veronica Bradbury, Christine Leonard, Charlie Streather

Sue England has very kindly agreed to audit the accounts

Christmas Tree in the Spire

There is still time to pop along to the Spire for the Christmas Tree Festival. It finishes on Sunday 3rd December. Come and see our tree along with 130 others, and the one from Spital Arts, always very original. We're both on the planks above the benches on the right as you enter the nave. See if you can find what this one turned into!



The Cemetery Task Team Meeting

Saturday 9th December 10am - 12.30pm. We meet at the chapels. Tools are supplied. New members welcome. Bring strong gloves and wear stout shoes and bring a drink as we usually stop around 11.00 for a break. We will be working among the old graves around the chapels, weeding and removing invasive holly, ash and budleja seedlings, keeping paths clear of tree debris.

Membership

In the new year we are bringing in an annual membership. Please download a form from our website and return to us with £5 per member (under 18s free). If you sign up any date from October - December you get those months included in the following year's membership. John Gascoyne at St Leonard's Mission has very kindly agreed to us using the mission as our postal address. Perhaps one day we will have an office in the refurbished chapels!

Extraordinary Women buried in the cemetery.

The theme for next year's Heritage Open Days in September is Extraordinary Women. In part, it is in recognition of the centenary of the Universal Suffrage Act, when (some) women finally gained the right to vote. But alongside celebrating the unique achievements of the suffragists, they want to tell the stories of the hundreds and thousands of other women who have changed our lives, in both large and small ways over time.

I am sure that every woman buried in the cemetery will have been extraordinary; who am I to judge? But this year as the Heritage Open Days people have chosen this as their theme we are scratching our heads and need your help. If you have heard or know anyone who might know of a woman, buried in the cemetery about whom we could make this claim, please let us know. In our January Newsletter which will be sent as a hard copy to members we will tell the stories of two who have recently been brought to our notice, Amy Wright and Fanny Miles. Earlier this year in our June e-Newsletter, downloadable from our website, <http://friendsofspitalcemetery.co.uk/downloads/> we wrote briefly about another extraordinary woman, Louisa Lucas, who the Task Team were rescuing from a very overgrown holly.

Cemetery Tour: A Winter's walk on Sunday 17th December

If you think it's about time you knew a bit more about the cemetery, here's your chance. Margaret is leading a tour of the cemetery, starting at 1pm at the bottom entrance gates on Hady Hill at the Lodge House. Please wear suitable footwear as some paths are steep and uneven. Donations to FoSC welcome. Contact the Secretary for more details: thefriendsofspitalcemetery@gmail.com

Dates for next year

We've lots planned for 2018 and hope you will enjoy being part of the Friends. Here's an outline, but there will be more details about these events and others nearer the dates on our website/ Facebook pages of both the Friends of Spital Cemetery and Spital Chapels Restoration Trust, in monthly mailing to your email address and in our quarterly bulletins.

March 2018 Daffodil Weekend.

May 15th 10-12.30 as part of Chesterfield Walking Festival: A Walk from Elder Yard to Chesterfield (Spital) Cemetery. What happened when the churchyards in town were full.

July 24th 2018 - stall at the Medieval Market in Chesterfield

August 19th 2018 Spital Cemetery Day

September 6th-9th, 13th-16th 2018 Heritage Open Days. 'Extraordinary Women'

September 2018 Well Dressing to coincide with Chesterfield Well Dressing Festival

October 2018 - AGM

November 5th 2018 - Chesterfield (Spital) Cemetery Remembrance Event.

The Cemetery Task Team meet (nearly always) on the second Saturday of each month,

We will be starting regular monthly general tours of the cemetery in the new year.



About us. Friends of Spital Cemetery celebrate Spital Cemetery which is the oldest public cemetery in Derbyshire outside Derby. It is a fine example of a Victorian Garden Cemetery. We work to ensure that Spital Cemetery remains for public benefit and enjoyment by encouraging biodiversity, recording and fostering its heritage of monuments and its use as an educational and community resource. For more details about our activities and how to get involved please contact the Secretary thefriendsofspitalcemetery@gmail.com

<https://www.friendsofspitalcemetery.co.uk>

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