



Friends of Spital Cemetery (FoSC) February News 2018

So, we are already into February. The daffodils are waiting for some warm days to show their heads but it shouldn't be far off now so we are looking forward to our Daffodil Weekend in March. The primroses and snowdrops are already through. One of our focuses this year will be the meaning of flower carvings and other symbolism used in the cemetery. Thus, our temporary logo. There is understandably an anchor on the CWGC grave, in

Hopton Wood stone, to John Thomas Spooner (aged 17) who was not only the youngest of our CWGC burials but also the only sailor, however, traditionally the anchor was a Christian symbol representing faith set in strong foundations so it is found on other stones, but you have in some cases to look close.

Membership and the new legal requirement for you to give us permission to contact you.

An important part of every Cemetery Friends Group is the data we keep on members for newsletters and mailings. This will be affected by a new GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) that comes into force in May 2018. So in order to inform you by email about our events and to be able to send out newsletters **we will need your written permission**. So, if you would like to continue hearing from us please download a membership form from our website and return it to us at the address on the form.

Of course it will still be possible for you to find out about our events on Facebook and to read and download our newsletters and lots more through our website. But, by becoming a member you will receive our new printed quarterly bulletins with news and articles and you will have voting rights at our AGM and be able to influence the direction of the group. We welcome your involvement and support.

Miles Medals news

In October last year we launched a fundraising appeal to bring back the war medals to Chesterfield of one of the town's, Spital in particular, many lads who served in WW1. See both our newsletters of October and November. A highly successful appeal means we have now secured the medals. More details to follow, but in the meantime we wish to thank members of the Miles family and the general public who gave generously to make this possible.

Reflections article

If it doesn't get delivered to you FREE through your letterbox, do pick up a copy of the March edition of Reflections magazine, usually available at the Tourist Information Office, in the Town Hall and other places in town from the end of February and with any luck there will be an article in there about Spital Cemetery. Many thanks to a lovely feature writer who clearly enjoyed her visit. to the cemetery to research her article.

SPITAL CEMETERY DAFFODIL WEEKEND

Saturday 3rd- Sunday 4th March, 2018

SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Come and see the daffodils in Spital Cemetery. Over the last few years volunteers in the cemetery planted over 35,000 King Alfred daffodil bulbs. Spring may still be just around the corner (officially from 20th March) but these big and showy daffodils



will be announcing its imminent arrival from early February onwards, cheering us all on these dreary winter days. The cemetery is a 10 minute walk from Chesterfield railway station, 15 minutes from the market square.

Meet up with old and new friends. Wrap up warm and bring a flask and linger awhile also to admire the beautiful monuments and the magnificent Chapel buildings, majestic pines and lime trees.

Guided tour and tea! Understanding the meaning of the stone flower carvings and other symbolism in Spital Cemetery Saturday 3rd March, 2018 13:00 - 16.30 Booking essential. Please book by 31st January.



Here is your chance to find out more about the flowers carved on the headstones in graveyards and cemeteries, particularly those from Victorian times. Perhaps a rose or passion flower is obvious but why a lily? And what about that anchor and chain? Was that a sailor?

Please join me as I take a tour of Spital Cemetery, pointing out stone flowers along the way, but there will be a bit about the trees, other cemetery symbolism, the history of the cemetery and some of our noteworthy residents. Afterwards we will retire to St Leonard's Mission on Valley Road for tea and cakes, included in the price.

When: Saturday 3rd March, 2018

Time: 13:00 - 16:30

Where: We will meet in Spital Cemetery. Exact location will be given when you book. Spital Cemetery is on a hillside and some of the paths are uneven (and occasionally we will go off piste) so please be prepared for difficult terrain.

Cost and Booking: £10. This is a fund raising event to raise money for the work of the Friends of Spital Cemetery. Please download the booking form from our website and send with the booking fee (cheques made payable to the Friends of Spital Cemetery) to the address on the booking form.

Further details: Please email for further details: lizcook80@icloud.com

Family Local History Event

at Chesterfield Local Studies Library, Beetwell Street.

on Wednesday 14th February at 10am-12pm

is now fully booked, but because of the overwhelming interest in this event we are thinking of planning a further one later in the year. Please email if you are interested and we will send you details. thefriendsofspitalcemetery@gmail.com

Dates for your Diary

- Cemetery Task Team meet on the second Saturday of the month 10-12.30 Meet at the chapels (Feb 10th and March 10th)
- General Cemetery Tours will take place on the 2nd Sunday of the month 1-2pm Meet at the bottom entrance on Hady Hill (Feb 11th and March 11th)
- 3rd-4th March Daffodil Weekend in the Cemetery. The cemetery is open all hours to visitors. So please come and enjoy visiting especially this weekend, when it will be a blaze of yellow.
- Sat 3rd March 1pm - 4.30pm. Guided tour and tea. Understanding the meaning of the stone flower carving and other Victorian symbolism in the cemetery.