



Monthly news from the cemetery
Friends of Spital Cemetery (FoSC)
March 2018



Spring is definitely in the air.



At last the daffodils are in flower. It should be a brilliant show by Daffodil Weekend 3-4th March. Come and join us for the tour and tea on Saturday.

Giving our pollinators a helping hand

Margaret and Liz met up with the new Bereavement Service Manager, Ross Fawbert, who manages the service for CBC. Ross has very successfully introduced wild flower areas at Brimington Crematorium and has agreed to leave some areas in Spital Cemetery to let the grass grow and see what flowers come through. These will not be areas around graves where people are visiting but in a couple of areas where there is just grass or close to the walls. There will be notices in the cemetery to explain where the areas are and what we will be doing there. We are hoping that this will provide nectar and shelter for insects and small animals and bring colour and interest to some of the larger areas of grass.

New Members. We have welcomed 10 new members into the Friends last month. Please show your support by becoming a member.

News from the chapels. At last the chapels are looking a bit more loved. The buddleja has gone from the roof and nearly all from around from inside the railings however as yet nothing has been done to stop the deterioration of the building, but we have had written confirmation from the council that the chapels are 'under offer'. They write that the council believe that 'the community' is best served by these buildings being sold to a real developer who can demonstrate they have the finances to repair and reuse the chapels in a way which ensures their future in the longer term and demonstrate that their plans for the building are appropriate given its status.'

Henry's DCM

Chesterfield is preparing to celebrating the centenary of the end of hostilities and signing of peace treaties with events across the borough this year and into 2019. At the end of last year we raised the funds to buy the war medals, in particular of the Distinguished Conduct Medal, awarded to Henry Miles who was brought up in Spital. The Friends of Spital Cemetery are discussing with the Museum if we could display them prior to their major exhibition which will take place from 13th October 2018 - 19th June 2019 at the Museum.



In celebration of the struggle for equal voting rights for women - 14th March at 2pm

It has been suggested that with International Women's Day on 8th March that we honour the grave of Ann Fletcher. The majority of our war graves, those that are listed on the commonwealth war graves commission site and those remembered on family graves in the cemetery but who are buried where they fell, are men, but we have one grave to a woman. Ann Fletcher served in the Territorial Force Nursing Service when she died. Ann represents for us the many women who showed exceptional courage at this time a hundred years ago whether it was working in the hospitals, driving the trams, toiling in the munitions factories (like that of the Patent Electric Shot-Firing Company on Dark Lane in Newbold) or simply because they held their families together while fathers, husbands and sons were away at war in very uncertain times. It was as a result of their sacrifices that the clamour for equal voting rights began when the war ended and it was no longer so easy to hold back the tide.

We will meet at the chapels at 2pm. The Leader of CBC will lead the event. Wreaths will be laid by the British Legion, and the Royal British Legion, and a floral tribute in Suffragette colours by UNISON. The short walk to the graveside is across rough grass so please wear suitable footwear. All welcome. Refreshments will be available at St Leonard's Mission on Valley Road afterwards.

[https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead/results/?cemetery=CHESTERFIELD \(SPITAL\) CEMETERY](https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead/results/?cemetery=CHESTERFIELD%20(SPITAL)CEMETERY)

Reflections? Don't forget to pick up a March copy!

March diary dates

3-4 March Daffodil Weekend

3rd March 1-4.30pm Stone Flowers and Victorian Symbolism Tour and Tea (still some places, late bookings accepted. email lizcook80@icloud.com to book)

10th March 10-12.30 Cemetery Task Team. Meet at chapels

11th March 1-2pm General Cemetery Tour. Meet at the bottom entrance off Hady Hill

14th March 2pm Service at Ann Fletcher's graveside. Meet at the chapels.