

Spital Cemetery was opened in 1857. The graveyards attached to Anglican churches and land beside nonconformist places of worship were overcrowded and the people of Chesterfield and the surrounding villages needed somewhere new to bury their dead. The fashion at that time was to design a cemetery that looked like a garden with flowers, trees and winding paths so people coming to visit could spend time in the fresh air and have their spirits lifted. The Victorians were also very interested in the 'language of flowers' and Spital abounds in beautiful flower carvings on the headstones. Each different flower said something particular about the person who was buried there. This circular tour starts and finishes at the Bottom Entrance next to the Lodge (now a private residence) on Hady Hill.

Please take care on the uneven paths.

Do not lean on the gravestones.

Dogs are welcome but please keep on a lead and dispose of poo bags responsibly.

Enjoy your visit.

Flower carvings. Both these stones were carved, and signed, by JT Wright. His parents, William and Amy Wright were masons. W Wright was the first stonemason to work in the cemetery. JT Wright's own grave can be seen on Pinewood Drive.

1. Rose and lily. Rose means beauty. Lily stands for purity, innocence, mercy and chastity. The lily is also an ancient Greek symbol of motherhood
2. Primrose and fern are usually found on the graves of the young. Primroses symbolise innocence, youth (latin word, primus means first) also patience, kindness and gentleness. Ferns mean humbleness and sincerity.

Wildflower areas. The cemetery is owned by Chesterfield Borough Council and maintained by Bereavement Service. Traditionally the grass everywhere is regularly cut short. This year BS has agreed to let the grass in three areas grow uncut during the summer so we can see what wild flowers emerge. If you can identify any of the wild flowers you see there please take a photo and send us an email with their name, and yours too. We want to make a list of all the wildflowers growing in the cemetery. Our email is: thefriendsofspitalcemetery@gmail.com

3. Along the stone wall on Hady Hill

4. In the south east corner between Cemetery Road and Valley Road

15. Under tree cover to the west of Pinewood Drive just before you get to the end of the tour.

Tubs on The Terrace. Benefactors and Parks. 5. 6. 7. and 8.

There are four large tubs which the Friends maintain. These are planted with Erigeron Karvinskianus (Mexican fleabane), Hemerocalis (day lily), Molinia caerulea (moor grass), Hedera Helix 'ivalace' (ivy), Hellebore (Christmas or Lenten Rose) and in the spring there are hyacinths and snowdrops.

The Terrace runs through the area where the majority of the nonconformist burials were. Here at the end of The Terrace on the right before it meets Elm Way there is a large monument to members of the Eastwood family who made their fortune making wheels for wagons. GA Eastwood presented Eastwood Park to the people of Hasland in 1911 and established Brearley Park in Whittington.

The Anglican chapel is on the south side and, as you look down from the porch, the burials on that side of Chapel Hill are Anglican. Here you will find the grave of TP Wood, Spirit Merchant and three times Mayor who donated money to buy the land for Queen's Park to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

War, Spanish 'Flu and women's suffrage. Violas and poppies. 9. 10. 11. 12. and 13.

In 2018 we will be celebrating the centenary of the signing of the armistice which put an end to four years of hostility but also, as a direct result of the work of women during the war, that some women were finally given the vote. Equality for women never looked back. Sadly this was not so

for many young women as in 1918 there was a 'flu pandemic that gripped the country and took many lives, particularly of young women. You will see four tubs containing violas in purple and white (suffrage colours) on the graves of four such women. In this area too are four of our 35 Commonwealth War Graves Commission graves to 34 men and one woman who served in WW1, were injured but died in this country and are buried here, as with C Miles who emigrated to Canada, fought in WW1, received a Distinguished Conduct Medal but died in the military hospital on Vincent Square in London from his injuries. Also there are ten graves in this small segment of the cemetery where sons are remembered who were killed in action and are buried overseas. We have marked them all with wooden poppy crosses.

Proposed site for 'The Gateway'

Plans for an installation and planting where visitors will be able to learn and reflect about the men and women of Chesterfield who fought, died and also those who survived the 1914-18 War. 14.

Note: The purple and white violas may not last beyond the end of June because the slugs seem particularly partial to them, and they are not enjoying being in shade. We will look for more appropriate plants to replace them.