



Monthly News from the Cemetery Friends of Spital Cemetery (FoSC) June 2018

May review

ANZAC Day feedback

It may have felt a bit uncomfortable dragging myself from my bed to get to Spital Cemetery for 5am on Anzac Day but the event itself was so special (sunrise, the bugle call, Ed's address) and the positive feedback we have had from many quarters has been overwhelming. The Council WW1 committee commented especially on how moving the event was. I was very moved by these touching words sent by longstanding Friend David Kee, "My Grandfather spoke once to me about the landing of troops and the ships going away. He said that the Turkish troops were well dug in and machine gunned many men pinning them down on the beach for many days. He told me many died or were seriously wounded. I think it was something that left him with deep sorrow." We received this lovely message from the bugler, Barry Telfer, "Very memorable. Thank you for allowing me to participate. It was an honour and a privilege." Michael Meechan, who is our first Australian Friend but has deep roots in Chesterfield (his mother was born on Spital Lane) said, "The photographs are great and gave me a great sense of being there. I thought the candles and red ribbons were particularly lovely and really added to making the commemoration special. Thank you for thinking of it. A very nice touch." We hope that the tea lights will come out again next year as we remember that we are part of a bigger world with shared ideals.



Chesterfield Walking Festival and general cemetery walks

This year our contribution to the walking festival started in town, at Elder Yard Unitarian Chapel where Ed, our vice-chair, had opened their gates to welcome the 15 participants. I explained that along with the other places of worship in town the space for burying the dead in Victorian times was fast running out and they needed a new cemetery, so Spital's new Garden Cemetery came into existence. We walked out to Spital and returned alongside the River Rother which runs through Broad Oak Meadow where Markham's engineering works was. Our final stopping place was the station with Stephenson's statue outside reminded people that he spent the last 10 years of his life in Chesterfield and was responsible for the Midland Railway, opened in 1840, on which much of Chesterfield's destiny as the centre of Industrial England depended.



Margaret organises general tours of the cemetery on the second Sunday of each month (check Facebook or email if you want confirmation of a date) from 1-2pm. Meet at the bottom entrance on Hady Hill. The walks are free but donations to support the work of the Friends of Spital Cemetery are gratefully received. And look out for further walks during Cemetery Day 19th August and during both the Heritage Open Day weekends in September.

British Flower Week 18-24th June

To coincide with British Flower Week we have put a downloadable walk and guide on our website. Flowers in the Cemetery. Please come and explore our new wildflower areas. Look for the purple and white violas remembering that war did not only take the lives of young men but was responsible for a flu pandemic that killed many young women in the closing months of 1918. Enjoy the four large tubs we look after along The Terrace. Discover the meaning of some of the fabulous flower carvings on the headstones. Find out more about 'The Gateway' project.



Liz's recommendation

Spital Arts Spectacular Art Fair at St Leonard's Church Friday 8th - Saturday 9th June. Every year Spital Arts open St Leonard's Church on Valley Road for two days in June to local craftspeople and artists. It celebrates the amazing talent we have in Spital from woodworkers to weavers, painters to jewellery makers, photographers to potters. There will be refreshments with the usual assortment of fabulous cakes for which Spital Arts events have become famous. You will be able to see work by lettering artist Elizabeth Forrest (who generously donated our logo) and Guy Badham (who generously donated photographs we have used on postcards and Christmas Cards.) David Parsons made our wonderful bug hotel which is on the back wall of the Tool House in the cemetery, but his usual work, fine work in wood, will also be on sale at the Art Fair. And finally there will be work on display by Stuart Church who took photos for us last year on Cemetery Day and regularly takes photos at our events.

Help with website

We received small grants last year from Foundation Derbyshire and Derbyshire County Council which among other things paid for us to get professional help to set up our website. We now pay for ongoing maintenance costs from funds we raise from walks and stalls and subscriptions. If you

have knowledge of websites and would be willing to give us some help with adding material and managing the site, or know anyone who would be willing to help, please get in touch.

Public Open Spaces Survey

Chesterfield Borough Council is carrying out a consultation to obtain views about Chesterfield's open spaces, ranging from parks to canal towpaths. They want to know what people think of the area's open spaces now so they can plan to ensure there is a good mix of different open space sites across the borough that meet the current and future needs of local residents and groups.

The survey is looking at most types of open spaces and this includes public space areas within cemeteries and churchyards. Please spare a few minutes to take part in the survey. We hope that it will demonstrate to the council that Spital Cemetery is an important green space which is visited by local people as well as by the bereaved.

Please follow this link <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=152084462625&%3Bqid=535457>

June dates for your diary

8/9 June Spital Arts Spectacular at St Leonard's Church Friday: 14:00-19:00, Sat: 10:00-16:00 hrs

10th June General cemetery tour 1-2pm Meet at the bottom entrance off Hady Hill

16th June Cemetery Task Team. 10am-12pm. Meet at the chapels.

18-24th June. British Flower Week. Download a tour+map from our website.



Friends of Spital Cemetery seek to promote Spital Cemetery as a haven for wildlife, and a place of remembrance, heritage and learning for the community.

<http://friendsofspitalcemetery.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofSpitalCemetery>

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