



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

Review of past month

The month started with a wonderful article by Rosie Gilligan in Reflections Magazine about some of the Extraordinary Women buried in Spital Cemetery.

We had a busy September with the Well Dressing and two Heritage Open Days weekends when Margaret and Liz ran a series of walks. The Well Dressing attracted a lot of new interest in the cemetery as it was featured in the Tourist Information/Visitor Centre advertising about the well dressings in Chesterfield along with the ones in The Spire and in the Market Square.

Many thanks to the hard working well dressing team, Lyn, Margaret and Catherine.



A place for quiet reflection.

This year, 100 years since the 1918 November 11th Armistice, towns and cities throughout the country have been remembering the service and sacrifice of their own women and men during that combat. CBC has very graciously included Spital Cemetery in their local events and will continue to do so during the week leading up to Armistice Sunday at the beginning of November and with an installation in Spital Cemetery in June 2019 recognising the Treaty Of Versailles that truly brought WW1 to an end.

In March the leader of the Council, Tricia Gilby, the British Legion, UNISON and the Royal Hospital attended a short service at the grave of Nurse Fletcher who is our one woman listed by the Commonwealth War Grave Commission but buried here in a family grave. It was International Women's Day.

On 25th April at 5am we welcomed members of the British Legion again, the Chesterfield branch of the Western Front Association and Cllrs Steve Brunt and Shirley Niblock to a very special service to remember the contribution of men and women from Australia and New Zealand. It was ANZAC Day and Australian Barry Telfer's bugle rang out across Chesterfield.

Last week it was the turn of Africa as we remembered the contributions and sacrifice of people from that continent but also that many men and some women from Chesterfield did not come home and are buried/remembered where they fell. The Mayor, Cllr Brittain, members of Chesterfield Interfaith, the Muslim Welfare Association and Peace Campaigner and member of Society of Friends Lyn Pardo came together at the grave of James Clement Collis who is remembered here on his family gravestone but lies in King Tom Cemetery in Sierra Leone. It was a hundred years to the day that Clem died on board HMS Africa off the coast of Sierra Leone a key base for British activity across West Africa.

The final event this year will be our Remembrance Service on Monday 5th November at 2pm at the graveside of Charles Miles DCM. Please join us.



Friends of Spital Cemetery AGM followed by Talk: Memorials and War Graves in France and Belgium today by Cllr Steve Brunt

Tuesday 2nd October, 2018

At St Leonard's Centre, Valley Road, Chesterfield S41 0HQ

6.30pm doors open (refreshments will be available)

7.15pm AGM

8pm Talk

All are welcome to attend our AGM when we will review the past year and talk about some of our exciting plans for 2019. This is your chance to become involved in the direction of the Friends and contribute to the future of this fabulous cemetery. Members will be voting in a new committee. If you would like to become a member, starting from the beginning of October you will get 15 months for the price of £5 as next year is included. Membership forms are on our website or will be available at the meeting.

Following the AGM Cllr Steve Brunt will give a presentation about 'Memorials and War Graves in France and Belgium today'. In his own words, "I have been visiting the western front for over twenty years and have amassed a wide variety of photos and knowledge of the areas." As part of this presentation he will also deliver a brief resume of WWI.

Donations welcome for the The Mayor's charities: Chesterfield Citizen's Advice Bureau and Ashgate Hospicecare Sponsor a Nurse.



Editor's note: We have until now recorded 26 family graves in Spital Cemetery where sons, and in one case a nephew, is remembered on a family grave but buried/remembered where they fell, killed-in-action. In two cases there are sons lost at sea and remembered officially on Plymouth Naval Memorial.

Above Alfred Gee was a Sapper (Private) with the Royal Engineers and was killed in action on 18th October 1915 at the age of 19. Here he is remembered on the grave of his brother George and his parents but he is on the memorial in Loos British Cemetery in France. <https://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/62300/LOOS BRITISH CEMETERY>

Amanda's recommendation - The Trench Experience

Amanda Brassington works for Chesterfield Museum and recommends their exhibition starting on 13th October. She says, "The museum is transforming a section of their art gallery into a recreated trench so you will be able to experience the sights, sounds and smells of life in the trenches of WW1 and discover some of the personal histories of Chesterfield soldiers. There will also be a talk on Sunday 11th November at 12.30pm by a speaker from the Mercian Regiment."

13th October - 19th January. Monday, Thursday - Saturday 10:00 - 16:00 and on Sunday November 11th 10:00 -15:00. Entry to the museum is free, however donations to cover costs are welcome.

October/November dates for your diary

2nd October AGM and Talk

13th Cemetery Task Team 10-12.30 Meet at the Chapels

14th 1pm General Cemetery Tour 2.30pm Cemetery Circular Walk: War Graves
Meet at the Bottom Entrance.

5th November Remembrance Service. 2pm. Meet at the west front of the Chapels.



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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