



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

**August review.** This month we've had a couple of successful events, Cemetery Day and our second market stall to raise money for the tool house project. On Sunday 19th we served refreshments outside the Chapels, from a gazebo which Transition Chesterfield had kindly loaned us, and welcomed people to share our 161st birthday. Margaret was busy with tours all day and both the new owners of the Lodge and the Chapels were around showing their support. Miss Sheffield added some glamour to the day and although we were prepared for a thunderstorm, the weather turned out fine. So too for our market stall on Saturday 25th and between the two events we raised over £114 but more importantly more people now know what a fabulous place Spital Cemetery is, and that it has got history, wildlife, health, wellbeing, well behaved dogs, and more on its agenda. A huge thanks to everyone who supported these events.



We have got a packed September to look forward to:

**Heritage Open Days (6-9 & 13-16 September 2018)** is England's largest grass roots heritage festival involving over 40,000 volunteers and 5,000 events and we're going to be part of it! This year the festival organisers have been looking for the stories of 'Extraordinary Women' in recognition of the centenary when (some) women got the vote so we have developed a couple of walks on this theme.

Guided tours (lasting about an hour) will be available at the following times:

- Sunday 9 September 11.00 – Women, Spital and the Vote. 13.00 General Tour of the Cemetery.
- Saturday/Sunday 15/16 September, 10.00 – General Tour of the Cemetery on both days.
- Saturday 15 September, 14.00 - Eight Extraordinary Women of Spital Cemetery
- Sunday 16 September, 14.00 – War Graves

Please look on our website, Facebook page and on the Heritage Open Days website for further details or contact us by email. Also, if you get Reflections magazine delivered to your door, or can get a September issue, you will find a fabulous article in there about the extraordinary women of Spital Cemetery which Rosie Gilligan has done for us. Many thanks to her too.

## Well Dressing in the cemetery. 8-15th September

While Chesterfield displays its well dressings in the town centre we will have our own dressing near the bottom entrance to the cemetery where it is believed there was a well. The design will be based on a gravestone symbol using the suffragette colours of green, white and violet. Do come and see our offering for this age-old custom unique to the Peak District and Derbyshire when communities would dress wells to give thanks for fresh water supplies. We are lucky to have some very skilled and hard working well dressers among our Friends. If you would like to have a go please contact us at: [thefriendsofspitalcemetery@gmail.com](mailto:thefriendsofspitalcemetery@gmail.com)



How to turn this, left, into this, right!



## An African Remembrance and Thanksgiving 18th September 2018 11am to Clem Collis and the Africans who gave their lives in WW1

100 years ago to this day James (Clem) Collis died on the ship HMS Africa off the coast of Sierra Leone. He is buried in King Tom Cemetery in Freetown, but his family have remembered him here in Spital on their family gravestone. We will recognise his sacrifice but also that of many thousands of Africans who lost their lives because they were involved in a war which was not just happening in Europe. Look on our website and Facebook page for further details about this very special event.

## 2nd October **AGM and talk.** At St Leonard's Centre, Valley Road, Chesterfield S41 0HQ

It may seem a long way off but I am sure this will be on us before we know it. Cllr Steve Brunt who is Chair of the council committee coordinating WW1 commemorative events in Chesterfield this year has been to a number of our events in the cemetery. He has generously offered to talk after our AGM on a subject close to his heart, 'Memorials and War Graves in France and Belgium today'. He wrote, "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.

Doors open at 6.30 (refreshments will be available) 7.15 AGM 8pm Talk. Non-members are very welcome to attend the AGM but cannot vote.

**Appeal for new grassroots and committee members.** This is a very exciting time to become part of the future of Spital Cemetery. The Lodge and Chapels have both got new owners who are doing magnificent work restoring the old fabric and bringing them back into use as private residences. The cemetery is fast running out of space (don't be deceived by the acres of grass, there are unmarked graves everywhere) and we are needed to make sure this green space with its fabulous history is known and appreciated by residents and visitors to Chesterfield. We start our new year in October with a new committee. Please let us know if you would like to get involved. [thefriendsofspitalcemetery@gmail.com](mailto:thefriendsofspitalcemetery@gmail.com)

**Liz's recommendation.** I may be helping at Chatsworth Art Out Loud but I'm certainly going to get back to Spital in time for this.

## **Will Ye Go To Flanders**

Friday 21st September 7.30

Spital Arts event at St Leonard's Centre, Valley Road. S41 0HQ

One hundred years after the end of The Great War Lester Simpson and Nigel Corbett present an alternative commemoration in songs and music accompanied on a variety of stringed instruments, accordion and bagpipes. Since 1994 Lester has written many songs and tunes inspired by frequent trips to the battle fields of Flanders. In 2000 he started a long collaboration with Nigel which started with their 'Peace Concerts Passchendaele.'

Tickets cost £10.00 and are available from 01246 220741 or email [spitalarts@gmail.com](mailto:spitalarts@gmail.com)

## **Dates for your diary**

6-9 September Heritage Open Weekend (walks on Sunday 9th)

9th September Margaret's Cemetery Circular Walk: Illness/health 2.30pm

8-15 September Well Dressing in the cemetery

13-16 September Heritage Open Days (walks on Sat 15th and Sunday 16th)

Tuesday 18th Sept service of thanksgiving and recognition of African loss in WW1

Saturday 29th September Market stall to raise money for the Tool House renovation

Tuesday 2nd October AGM followed by talk by Cllr Steve Brunt. Memorials and War Graves in France and Belgium today. At St Leonard's Centre.



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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