

AGM of Friends of Spital Cemetery

at St Leonard's Mission Room, Valley Road, S41 0HQ

Monday 2nd October 2017

AGM: 6.30 - 7.15 pm (doors open at 6.15)

followed by a talk, 'The Stonemasons of Spital Cemetery' by Lauren Butler

TALK: 7.30 - 9pm (doors open at 7.15)

(£3 for the talk, including a glass of wine, tickets available on the door)

Talk: The Stonemasons of Spital Cemetery

by Lauren Butler, PhD student at the University of Sheffield.

Cemeteries are full of names. They are the first thing we look for when trying to identify a grave, and they form the leaves of our family trees. They hint to historical individuals' family networks, their social status, and sometimes their ancestral professions. The absence of a name can also be telling. Many people were too poor to afford a headstone, such as the Irish navvies buried in the Roman Catholic area of Spital Cemetery, or the family of the first individual buried in the cemetery- two-week-old Mary Ann Bridgett.

The names of the mourners and the mourned are not the only names to be discovered, however. Hiding around the side of grave curbs and on the corners of bases there are often more names, those of the monumental masons who carved the memorials and altered the characters of cemeteries as funerary fashions changed. This talk is about one family of stonemasons who built much of Spital Cemetery, including its first memorial stone, and who are themselves buried among their life's work. The story of the Wright family is one of the many hidden histories of ordinary people to be discovered among the gravestones of Spital Cemetery.



About us. Friends of Spital Cemetery celebrate Spital Cemetery which is the oldest public cemetery in Derbyshire outside Derby. It is a fine example of a Victorian Garden Cemetery. We work to ensure that Spital Cemetery remains for public benefit and enjoyment by encouraging biodiversity, recording and fostering its heritage of monuments and its use as an educational and community resource. For more details about our activities and how to get involved please contact the Secretary thefriendsofspitalcemetery@gmail.com www.friendsofspitalcemetery.co.uk