



Leicester's first municipal cemetery which was opened in 1849, is the third oldest in the country and is still in use.

Listed Grade 2 in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens, the Cemetery covers 12 hectares (approximately 31 acres). Over the years it has changed little and contains many classical headstones and monuments demonstrating the wealth and standing of individuals buried there.

The Cemetery is the resting place of many of Leicester's notable Victorians and Edwardians such as Thomas Cook, John Ellis, Fielding Johnson and Arthur Wakerley.

It is a unique green space close to the heart of Leicester offering peace and tranquility to members of the public visiting graves or walking among the mature trees and the abundant flora and fauna.

Welcome to Welford Road Cemetery

The Restoration Project

The Heritage Lottery Fund and Leicester City Council have funded the Restoration Project which commenced on site in the summer of 2005.

An interpretation area has been designed on the site formerly occupied by the Victorian chapels. A new Visitor Centre has been built inside the main entrance, whilst the main paths in the Cemetery have been resurfaced and new railings erected along University Road and Welford Road.



The Visitor Centre is staffed at weekends by The Friends of Welford Road Cemetery who will give general help and advice to members of the public.

The Friends of Welford Road Cemetery was founded in 1999 as a voluntary organisation dedicated to history and conservation.

Work is in progress to digitise the existing burial records in order to facilitate the research into the histories of people interred in the Cemetery.

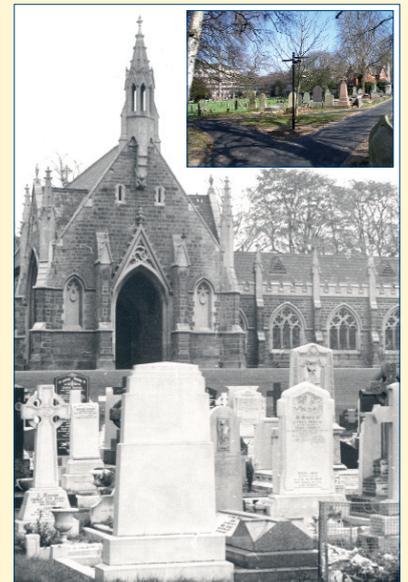
The Friends welcome volunteers to help them in their work.

If you are interested in joining, or would like to make a donation, please contact:-

The Secretary C.E. John Aston
The Friends of Welford Road Cemetery
One B Cairnsford Road
LEICESTER LE2 6CG
GB
email: john.aston2@ntlworld.com

The Visitor Centre

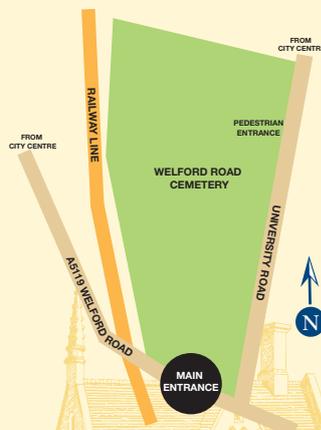
Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester



How to find the Cemetery:

The main entrance to the Cemetery is located on the A5119 Welford Road, Leicester, approximately 1.5 miles from the city centre. Parking is allowed on the main carriageway in the Cemetery. There are entrances for pedestrians next to the Chaplaincy, opposite Mayor's Walk on University Road.

There are regular bus services along University Road and Welford Road. For details of services call Traveline on 0870 6082608. (local rate charges)



The Cemetery is managed by Bereavement Services, Leicester City Council.
Tel: 0116 252 7382
Fax: 0116 222 8706
email: cemeteries@leicester.gov.uk



Activities at the Cemetery

A number of events are held at the Cemetery including guided walks and talks by "The Friends".

Blue Badge guided tours take place throughout the year.

More information can be obtained from the Tourist Information Centre, 7-9 Every Street, Town Hall Square, Leicester LE9 6AG. Tel: 0116 299 4444.

The Visitor Centre is open to the public on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

An early aerial view of Leicester, with the Cemetery highlighted in red.





The Gatehouse

The original cemetery gardeners' lodge, The Gatehouse, was purchased from Leicester City Council in the 1990's and now houses the Chaplaincy of Leicester University.

Former Chapel Area
On the site of the former Anglican and Dissenting chapels are plaques commemorating people buried in the Cemetery. The plaques, numbered 1 to 100, have information about notable people with their respective grave numbers. On two lecterns to the rear of the area are maps showing the locations of each individual's memorial.



Thomas Cook
The travel pioneer, Thomas Cook, is interred in the Cemetery. In 1841 he arranged for the Midland Counties Railway to provide a special train at the cost of one shilling (five pence) a head for people travelling from Leicester to a Temperance meeting at Loughborough. Four years later he arranged a tour from Leicester to Liverpool, and over the next few years his excursion programme rapidly expanded. The Thomas Cook travel agency still exists to this day.



World War I Memorial

In the North Eastern area of the Cemetery is a memorial to service personnel who died at The Fourth Northern Military Hospital, Leicester, during and after the First World War. This includes a memorial to Belgian soldiers and incorporates an Imperial War Graves monument designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.



The Central Area

This area contains many notable monuments. The stone steps leading up to the Former Chapel Area are original and Victorian boot scrapers are visible at the top of the steps.



Visitor Centre

The Visitor Centre is open to the public as per advertised times, with information available. The Centre has toilet facilities for the disabled and the general public.



The Original Boundary Wall

In this area the original boundary wall and entrance are still visible. The present gates on Welford Road were added in 1895 to prevent animals straying into the cemetery from the cattle market across the road.