



Friends of Wisbech General Cemetery

# Friends of Wisbech General Cemetery

## Explore the Cemetery—Looking and finding out

This is an activity sheet for a family or individual children according to age

**Safety \* Please note that this is intended to be done keeping to the main paths. (Off the paths the cemetery is hazardous, uneven ground, with thorns and thistles, tree roots, hidden stones and bits of metal, and some people throw rubbish away.)**

**Have fun—you don't have to do it all at once!**

### Section 1. Nature

- A. Can you find three different wild plants in flower? Maybe you can draw them or someone take a photograph, What colour are they, can you describe the leaves and petals?

- B. Can you find three different sorts of tree. Again you could draw them or take a photo or describe the tree. Do you know what it is called?

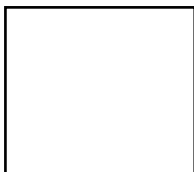
- C. What other living things can you see or hear?

## Section 2    Stones and memorials

- A.    Different kinds of stone are used in the gravestones. Not every grave has a stone. Can you find and describe three different kinds of stone? What colour is it? Does it feel smooth or rough? Has the weather worn it down?



- B.    The gravestones are all sorts of different shapes and sizes. There would have been a catalogue where families could choose the design they wanted. Choose three shapes that you like. Can you draw them or describe them?



- C.    Some of the stones have carvings on. Try to draw or describe one you like.



### Section 3. People

There is often more than one person buried in the same grave. Sometimes the names of family members who might have been buried somewhere else are included. Often the writing tells us how old the person was or when they died.

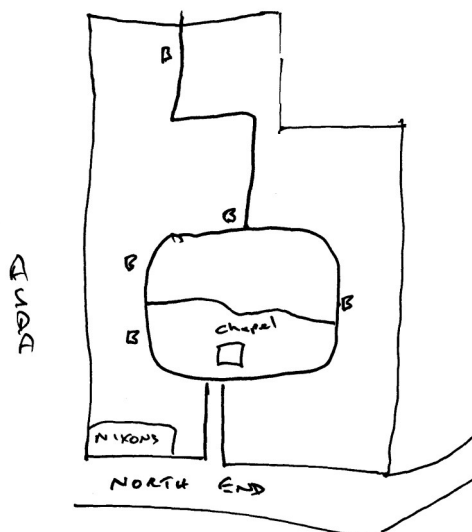
- A. Age—what is the name of the oldest person you can spot? Or how young is the youngest?
- B. Families—often several people from the same family are remembered on the stone; sometimes there are two or three graves with the same family name side by side. Write down the name of one of the families you have found.
- C. Sometimes the grave stone tells us what the person's job was. Can you see any occupations.
- D. Sometimes the writing tells us which church somebody belonged to? Can you find any examples?
- E. Can you find the name of someone who came here from a different country?
- F. Wisbech used to be a busy port when the cemetery was new. Can you find someone who was a sailor? Clues might be an anchor carved on the stone, or a word like Mariner.



## Section 4 War Graves

There are some more modern stones, almost white in colour, that mark graves of soldiers who died in war. (Commonwealth War Graves) They usually tell us which part of the armed forces the person was in and when they died, with a badge or symbol of their company or regiment. Most people who died in the First World War were buried near where they were killed, so their bodies were not brought home. People buried in Wisbech must have been wounded abroad, and then died from their wounds after they were brought back to Britain. There are other people who died in war but they are in family graves which record their death, and so did not get a separate stone.

1. Can you find the name, age and the year they died of one person with a war grave.
2. Have you spotted anybody who died in WW1 without a special stone? If so, what is the family name?



Rough plan of main paths.

Approach from North End on Lambert Walk and you see the chapel.

B = Bench



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