

Places of interest around the Cemetery

1 Anzac Graves – Between the months of April and December of 1915 the forces of the British Empire and France combined in an ill-fated attempt to wrestle Istanbul from the Ottoman Empire. This was known as the Dardanelles Campaign or simply Gallipoli. Almost 350,000 deaths or injuries occurred between the 2 sides, many were from the Australian and New Zealand forces. Some of the soldiers injured in that campaign were transferred to the Military hospital (Lancashire County Asylum) at Winwick. Sadly some of those brave men passed away there and are now buried in the War Graves right at the front of the cemetery. Anzac day is observed every year at Warrington cemetery.

2 Old Tram Stop – The building 2nd in on the left of the Cemetery is now the mess room for staff working within the Cemetery. However the building itself has a rich past life associated with it. Initially it was a Tram stop and terminus on Manchester Road complete with Public toilets and later became a bus stop. Sadly the public conveniences had to be shut down some time ago for the same sordid reasons that many such places have to be closed. On converting the buildings to a mess room and office it is rumoured to be true that a builder discovered a tram ticket over 100 years old rolled up and stuck in a crevice in the wall.

3 Carriage Road – The main road on the left-hand boundary from the entrance to the Cemetery is known as Carriage Road. The road is more substantial than the majority of paths within Warrington Cemetery and would have been the main access in for Horse drawn carriages to the Roman Catholic side of the Cemetery. It is still a vital access route today.

4 William Locker – In the Dissenters 'B' section of the Cemetery lies the body of William Locker dated 6th April 1879. The name is neither one of fame or infamy but the inscription on his headstone is more than a little peculiar. It reads "his tongue was cut out seven months before his death". Was this some kind of punishment or merely a metaphor to some tragic illness, the mind wonders!

5 First Grave – In the Roman Catholic section A of the Cemetery the grave number 298 lies the body of little Catherine Allen aged 2 years. Catherine, of Cockhedge Warrington has the rather tragic honour of being the first person laid to rest in Warrington Cemetery on the 26th March 1857.

6 George Formby – George Formby's Career spanned some 40 years between 1921 and his death in 1961. His name is famous the world over having entertained allied servicemen during World War II. When George's father (also George) died suddenly in 1921, George Junior (real name George Hoy Booth) decided to follow in his father's footsteps onto the stage, having become too heavy to pursue his ambition of being a Jockey. George's funeral brought the whole of Warrington to a standstill and was a moving and fitting occasion to the great man. George's magnificent white marble memorial headstone actually bares the image of his father, himself a star of the stage and can be found in the Roman Catholic section 'B' of the Cemetery.

7 Steve Donoghue – Anyone who knows the history of Horse Racing would recognise the name of Steve Donoghue. Between 1914 and 1924 Steve was Champion Jockey on 10 consecutive occasions – including 6 Derby wins, staggering achievements in any era. Steve's beautifully crafted memorial can be found in the Roman Catholic 'B' section of the Cemetery.

8 Augustinian Friars – On the 2nd of May 2001 the J.D Weatherspoon owned Friar Penketh opened in Warrington town centre. During foundation work on this building the remains of what is believed to have been an order of Hermit Friars from a 13th Century Augustinian Friary were disturbed. The remains were carefully excavated and re-interred on the Cremation plot at Warrington Cemetery.

Warrington Cemetery



Key:

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| 1 Soldiers Corner 1914/18 War | 7 Steve Donoghue (Jockey) | 13 Former Registrars |
| 2 Old Tram Stop | 8 Monks Re-interd | 14 Wakefield Corner |
| 3 Carriage Road | 9 Boundary Walk | 15 Baby Garden |
| 4 HS which says Deceased had tongue cut out | 10 Big Angel Plot | 16 Founder of Warrington Guardian Buried |
| 5 First Grave Dug 1857 | 11 Half Moon Plot | 17 Chapel and Fountain |
| 6 George Formby | 12 Lost Babies | |

9 Boundary Walk – If the time is taken to wander around the lengthy perimeter of the Cemetery, many hidden gems of the animal world can be seen particularly towards the back of grounds. Foxes, badgers and a whole host of small mammals might be seen, along with their natural predators the sparrowhawk and the buzzard along with the occasional barn owl hunting their prey from the skies. Parts of Warrington Cemetery really are a haven of peace and calm – excellent places for quiet contemplation.

10 Big Angel plot – Towards the Helsby Street boundary a huge marble Angel towers over the Boswell grave, a beautifully crafted memorial. The tomb is lined with white Morecambe brick and the coffins were placed inside the mausoleum.

11 Half Moon plot – On the right hand side of the Cemetery spanning the Church of England Sections F, H, J+L is the piece of land known as the 'Half Moon Plot', called such for it's obvious shape.

On first inspection it might appear to be a curious and quirky design from planners at the time. However the truth is that paths were laid some time after burials had commenced creating this strange looking feature.

12 Lost Babies – A cemetery as large as Warrington's is accustomed to stories of genuine tragedy born out through the inscriptions on the stones. However it would be difficult to imagine the torment brought down on the Blackburn family (Church of England section 'G') in 1878. In the month of September in that year the parents lost no fewer than five children. Four of them on consecutive days.

13 Former Registrars – In the Church of England 'G' section of the Cemetery several interesting memorials can be observed. No less than 3 former registrars of Warrington Cemetery are laid to rest here. Arthur Mason was one such gentleman who lived in the White House just to the right of the Cemetery gates, his daughter Jean Burgess (another registrar) was actually born there.

14 Wakefield Corner – As the Church of England side of the cemetery opens up to the right hand side of the chapel a large memorial is immediately noticeable at the foot of the path. This is known by staff as Wakefield's corner (for the obvious reason that the name on the grave is Wakefield). One has to assume that a family of some wealth and social standing have been laid to rest here because of the sheer size of the monument.

15 Baby Garden – The 'Forget-me-not' baby garden in Warrington Cemetery opened in the year 2000. Areas within the garden have been set aside for both burial and strewing of ashes along with a lease scheme for memorial plaques. The garden can be found just down the steps behind the Chapel.

16 Alexander Mackie – In the Dissenters 'A' section-just behind the chapel, can be found the tomb of Alexander Mackie. Born in Dundee, Alexander went on to become the founder of the Warrington Guardian.

17 Chapel and Fountain – The chapel was originally one of three within the cemetery and was the Church of England Chapel. Sadly the Non-conformist and Roman Catholic chapels were deemed to be in a state unworthy of refurbishment and were pulled down, making the one chapel left interdenominational. The ornate fountain which stands alongside the remaining chapel had also fell into a desperate state, thankfully it has been restored to full working order and once again provides a sense of majesty to the grounds.

Warrington Cemetery

Once inside the gates of Warrington Cemetery it's easy to forget that you are right in the heartland of a thriving and modern town.

The memorials are steeped in history and tell the tales of fame and tragedy, Industrial figures and sporting icons.

Dwell for a while, beautiful and stunning wildlife can be observed along with excellent architecture.

2007 marked the 150th anniversary of the opening of this proud Cemetery, recent additions of a Cremated remains section along with a baby garden, ensure it's continued importance and worth to the community.



Warrington Cemetery
Manchester Road
Warrington
Tel: 01925 267731

Email: bereavement-services@warrington.gov.uk

A lovely quiet place for
contemplation...

Designed by 4 Corners Design Ltd. Tel: 01925 494273

