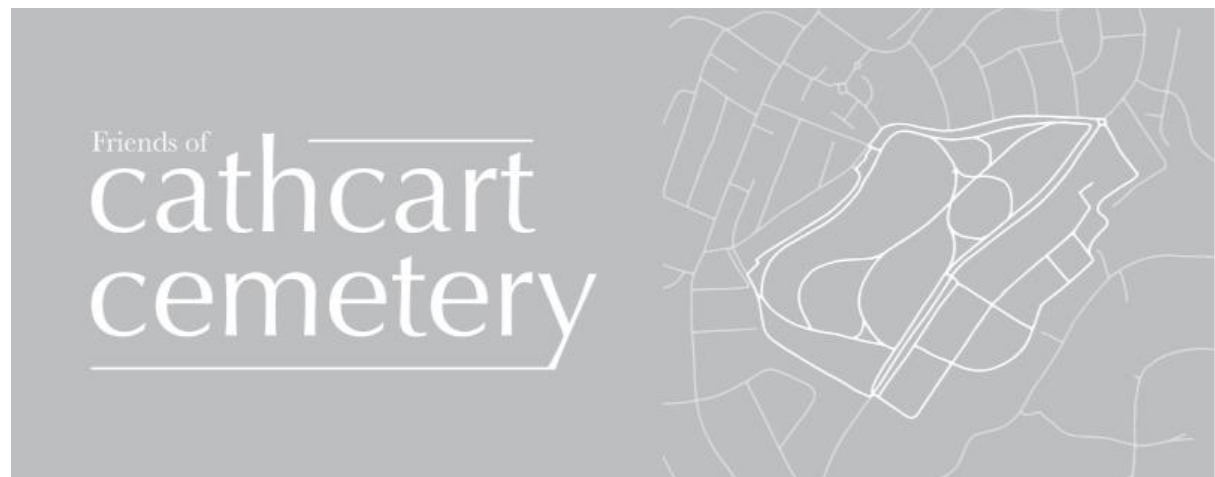


Friends of Cathcart Cemetery
Annual Report
2022-2023



The Friends of Cathcart Cemetery Annual Report 2022-2023

Reporting Period: 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

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The Friends of Cathcart Cemetery

Charity Trustees

Jacqui Fernie

Ian Gall

Jonathan Tremlett

Management Group

Emma Dickson

Jacqui Fernie

Ian Gall

Jonathan Tremlett

Derrick Watson



Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to the Friends of Cathcart Cemetery Trustees Annual Report. The reporting period for 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023.

After a first busy year as a charity, 2022-2023 has been, in comparison, a quiet year for the Friends of Cathcart Cemetery. It was a reminder to us that as a small volunteer lead group, we all have priorities other than the Cemetery. This year our small band of volunteers have had some major life changes, including moving house, serious illness, and new jobs. Exciting life events for some but has meant we haven't been able to dedicate as much time to the Friends group as we'd have liked.

Our relationship building activities with East Renfrewshire Council (who own and manage the cemetery) has slowed this year because of, amongst other things major staffing and funding changes within the Council. But we're pleased to say that through careful negotiations with the help of *Community Enterprise* we are hopeful that our relationship with the Council can be improved and strengthened over the coming year.

Not being able to host as many activities in 2023 in the Cemetery has been a blow this year. But we have not entirely rested on our laurels. We remain a conduit for people searching for graves through our Grave Location

Service. Our social media presence continues to grow and more excitedly, we are waiting to hear from Historic Environment Scotland about our application to have the Cemetery included in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (the equivalent of 'listed status' for outdoor spaces). We hope to hear about that by the end of the 2023. Some of those who lie in the Cemetery continue to be celebrated in the press.

As we enter our third year as a group, we are minded of the need to grow as a team, and we will be running a major volunteer recruitment drive.

Jacqui Fernie, Co-chair

Ian Gall, Treasurer

Jonathan Tremlett, Co-chair



Who are the Friends of Cathcart Cemetery?

Our Values

We are Friends

We are Friends to the Cemetery, and to East Renfrewshire Council who manage the Cemetery. We are Friends to the neighbours and communities who surround and use the Cemetery. We believe it is only through working in partnership with the community and local heritage organisations, that Cathcart Cemetery will thrive.

We are Local

The Cemetery is a place of stories, and we want to explore and discover these local tales. We are the local community. We want to learn together what it takes to do the best for Cathcart Cemetery. We believe the skills, experience, and enthusiasm to help Cathcart Cemetery are in the community.

We are Volunteers

We have no paid members of staff - we are all volunteers and sometimes life takes over. We will always remember that. And whether we can give one hour a week, or one day, we are grateful for the help. We work as a team.

Structure, governance and management

We are a small group of local residents who, having been to one of Roger Guthrie's Cemetery Tours fell in love with the Cemetery and felt it needed to be celebrated and cherished more. The first meeting of the Friends of Cathcart Cemetery was held in March 2019.

The Friends of Cathcart Cemetery was registered with OSCR as a Scottish Charity in June 2021. We were set up to promote the advancement of Cathcart Cemetery and encourage the sustainable management of the environment and heritage for the public benefit.

Our constitution is called a Management Document. You can find a copy on our [website](#). We are a membership charity. This means you will be able to join the Friends of Cathcart Cemetery and help shape what it, and the Cemetery becomes. It will also mean you can vote to elect people on to the Management Committee (Trustees). We hope to launch a comprehensive Membership Scheme in 2024.

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment

No additional Trustees have been appointed during the reporting period.

Our Year

Achievements and Performance

We started the reporting period with an invite to present at the South Glasgow Heritage and Environment Trust's Annual General Meeting. Jacqui gave a well-received talk on some of the wonderful women buried in the Cemetery.

East Renfrewshire Council

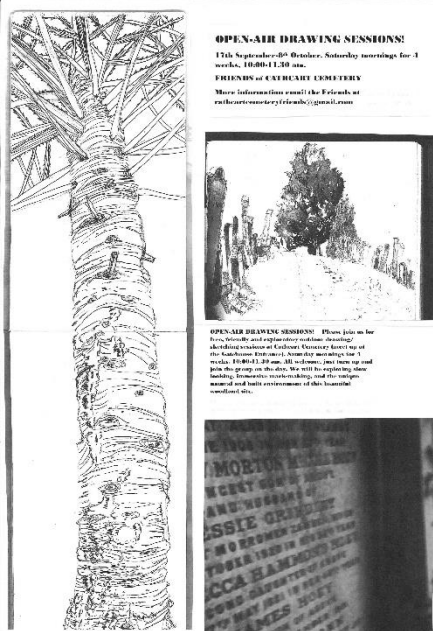
Our relationship with East Renfrewshire Council has had highs and lows this year. There were complaints to the Council about our relationship with a commercial tour operator, who wanted to offer speciality tours of the Cemetery. And although our involvement with this venture was minimal, our relationship with the Council suffered as a result. Other factors such as a change in staffing and the inevitable budget constraints has also impacted on our relationship with the Council.

We have once more, in partnership with *Community Enterprise*, started the process of relationship building with the Council. Which we hope will bring a truly community-focussed response to the Cemetery.

Our long-term goal is to work with the Council to co-produce a management plan for the Cemetery that is sustainable and sympathetic to the Cemetery's heritage, environmental and community needs.

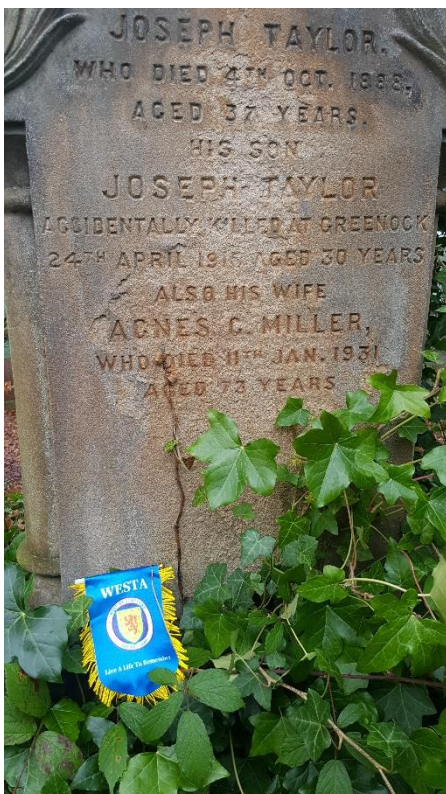
Community Enterprise

In 2023, we were accepted onto the Community Enterprise Accelerate project. Community Enterprise works with Community Groups to move community projects forward. Although not the project they had signed on to, the help and support of the Community Enterprise Business Associate was instrumental in restarting our relationship with the Council. The report produced by Community Enterprise leaves us in a great position for our future relationship with the Council.



The Cemetery Sketch Group

The Cemetery Sketch Group met for the first time each Saturday in September 2022, under the expert tutelage of Dr Francis Roberston, lecturer and researcher the Glasgow School of Art. Over the course of four weeks, in sunshine and rain, our confidence with pencil and charcoal and making marks grew. Feedback from participants was very positive with people commented on how wonderful it was to have the time and space for mindful contemplation. and we hope to run another group in the future.



150th Anniversary of International Football

On St Andrew’s Day 1872, Scotland and England met at the West of Scotland Cricket Ground to play the world’s first international football game. Given our proximity to Hampden and Queen’s Park, it’s not surprising that the Cemetery has its share of pioneering Scotch Professors among the buried. Chief among them, Joseph Taylor, who played in that first international and who went on later to captain the successful Scottish Team.

In the run up to the anniversary, the Cemetery was featured in a number of publications including the Daily Mail, [The Scotsman](#), and the Herald.

Jacqui, our co-chair was also [interviewed](#) by the BBC Scotland Sports team about the Cemetery.

Jessie MacLachlan

News of the restoration of Jessie MacLachlan's gravestone continued to make the press. Mary Ann Kennedy's magnificent documentary *Trusadh: Jessie N. MacLachlan - Queen of Melody* was shown on BBC Alba in June 2022 and prompted a positive article in the *Oban Times*, celebrating Jessie and Mary Ann's achievements.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme Volunteer

In November we were lucky enough to help a DoE volunteer with the volunteering element of his bronze award. Our volunteer spent regular time over three months picking up litter in the Cemetery. Some of our Management Group joined our volunteer on one of his litter picks. While the Cemetery is relatively free of large-scale litter (apart from one or two problem areas), the level of small, low-level litter was sobering. We hope to organise a community litter-pick in Spring 2024.

Talks and tours



In Summer 2022 we again offered General Tours of the Cemetery. Again, the summer tours and the tour we hosted for East Renfrewshire's Door Open Day Festival in September sold out quickly and the feedback was excellent. We were disappointed that we couldn't offer tours in 2023, but we are hoping with a renewed relationship with the Council, tours will be back for 2024.

The Cemetery on Social Media

The Friends Group (@CathCem) is on X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook, both as a public page and group. We continue to build up our audience on both platforms. Our X (formerly Twitter) now has 875 followers. The Facebook Page had 957 likes and the Facebook Group had 259 members on 30 June 2023.

Website

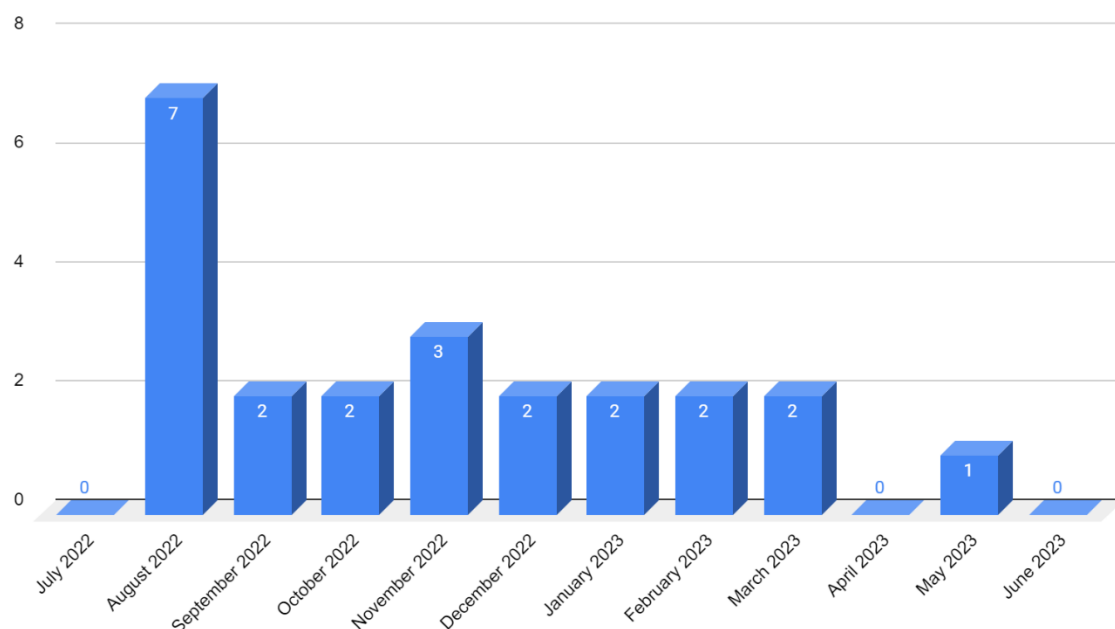
Our website continues to be an important means for our followers to contact us. During the reporting period, the website has been visited 1,220 times by visitors from all over the world with the majority using a mobile device to access it.

Cemetery Online Maps

We have two online maps: a general tour of the Cemetery and a specialised Footballers tour, both available on our website at <https://www.cathcartcemetery.co.uk/maps>. Views of the maps have steadily increased since its creation, with over 145,000 views at the end of the reporting period.

Grave Locating Service

Grave Locating Service Requests Per Month



We offer a Grave Locating Service, where we will obtain the grave details then try and locate it. If successful we will take a photograph and provide a GPS location. There is no formal charge for this service but any voluntary donation is very welcome.

The Grave Locating Service had 23 requests during the reporting time averaging 2 queries per month with a peak of 7 requests in August 2022.

Financial Report

This report concerns the accounting period from the 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Once again ticket sales for cemetery tours of £216.43 and donations of £333.23 have been the main source of income giving us a healthy balance of £1931.38 to carry forward.

As per last year, the accounts have been approved by our independent examiner Gordon Ridland CA.

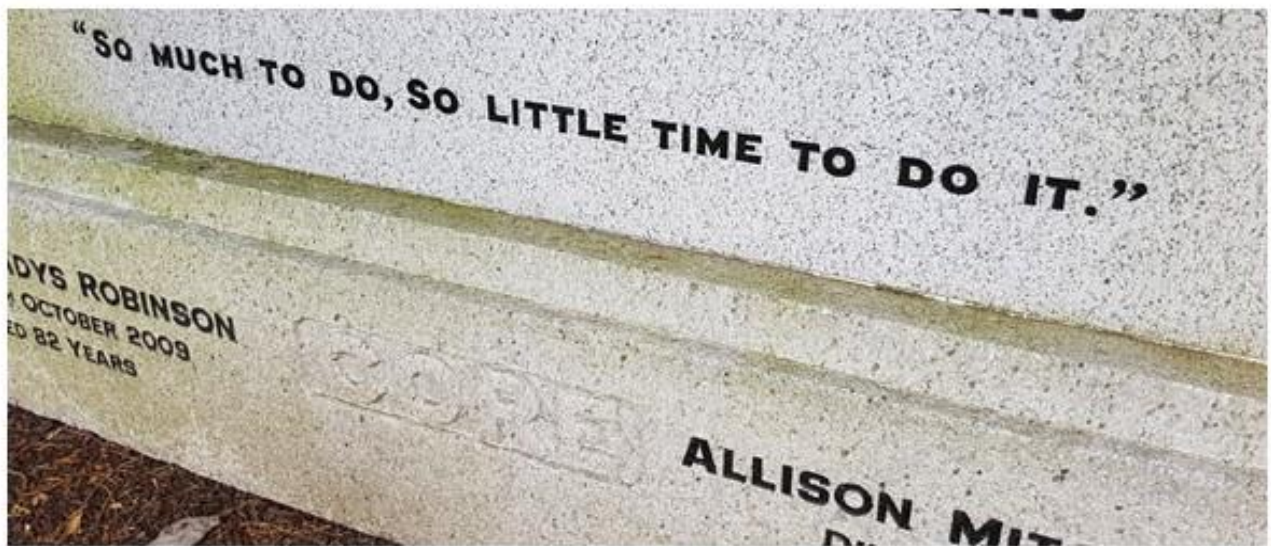
Plans for 2024

Our plans for 2024 very much depends on developing a close working relationship with the Council and this will be our priority for 2024. Hopefully we will be able to work closely with East Renfrewshire Council's Community Development Department to develop our relationship with the Council and other stakeholders in the Cemetery.

Growing our team

Currently, our Management Group has five volunteers and we have a small group of ad-hoc volunteers working on local history projects. We need to grow our Management Group and our pool of volunteers. Over the coming year, we will be seeking opportunities within the community to increase interest in volunteering at the Cemetery and looking for people to join our Management Group. We are particularly interested in expanding our knowledge and experience in heritage and environment management, and funding and fundraising. If this is something you think you'd be interested in helping us, please contact us at

<https://www.cathcartcemetery.co.uk/volunteer>



Friends of
Cathcart Cemetery (SCIO)
SC051071