

Friends of
Cathcart Cemetery Annual Report
2021-2022

The Friends of Cathcart Cemetery Annual Report 2021-2022

Reporting Period: 24 June 2021 – 30 June 2022

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Friends of Cathcart Cemetery

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The Friends of Cathcart Cemetery

Charity Trustees

Jacqui Fernie

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Management Group

Emma Dickson

Jacqui Fernie

Ian Gall

Jonathan Tremlett

Derrick Watson



Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to the first Friends of Cathcart Cemetery Trustees Annual Report. The reporting period for 24 June 2021 – 30 June 2022.

Time moves differently in a cemetery, especially in Cathcart Cemetery – a peaceful, green haven which moves with the seasons. And so too, time moves differently when setting up a new charity. We can't believe we're celebrating our first birthday.

Our most significant achievement this year has been being awarded charity status by OSCR in June 2021. It has been a steep learning curve for all of us first time trustees. We had not appreciated all the work that comes with setting up a charity. Over the past year we have been working on developing our governance structures and writing essential policies and processes. We have got some way to go yet and some things are taking longer to complete with such a small team of volunteers – changing our bank account was traumatic enough.

However, we feel it will be worth it in the long run. Now we can start planning a clearer community-led response to the Cemetery – what are your priorities and what can you do to help? We can access a whole host of new funding opportunities as a charity that we couldn't access before as a community group. We can start getting the expertise on board who will ensure we are working in the best interests of the Cemetery, and help us to keep the Cemetery as a community space.

But more importantly, it demonstrates how serious we are about Cathcart Cemetery.

It was a busy year for the Cemetery. As well as the first tours, the first online talks, the first time talking to national press, it was our first restoration which is something to be celebrated. It has been wonderful to see Jessie MacLachlan's Aberdeenshire Balmoral Red granite Cross restored to its rightful place in the Cemetery. We hope that this is the first of many gravestone restorations in the Cemetery.

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 the Membership Scheme early in 2023.

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment

No additional Trustees have been appointed during the reporting period. All current Trustees have been appointed under Clause 56 of the Friends of Cathcart Cemetery Management Document: Initial Charity Trustees.

Our Year in Friends

Achievements and Performance

East Renfrewshire Council

East Renfrewshire Council have been busy in the Cemetery – it is brilliant to see the new paths at the far end of Brenfield Road entrance gate and an end to the drainage problems at the Netherlee Road roundabout gate, where Sections A and D meet. They have also installed new fencing and tidied up the entrance area at the Linn Extension, revealing new (to us) headstones. Council staff also cut back trees and shrubs and a welcome general tidy up Section N.

We want to be friends to the Council and so in November 2021 we gave two of the Ward Councillors a tour of the Cemetery. We introduced the rich community history of the Cemetery and shared our hopes and fears for the Cemetery with them. The only way we're going to see the change we want in the Cemetery is by working together with the Council. And we welcome any opportunity to make new friends. We also continued to keep in regular contact with Council officials in the Neighbourhood Team.

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.



Hampden Collection

Our friendship with the Hampden Collection is our oldest. It was at a 'To Absent Friends' event with the Collection in 2019 that the Friends of Cathcart Cemetery burst on to the scene. With the cemetery's proximity to Hampden and Queen's Park, it is no surprise that the Cemetery has its share of footballers and those in the trade.

We are always looking for an excuse to hang out with our pals and this year we hosted an online talk about the Footballers of Cemetery in conjunction with the Hampden Collection and we took part in their launch bid for the Football Square Mile (an open-air museum consisting of the most important football sites in the world) to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We are also cooking up plans for something in January 2023 to celebrate our very own Scotch Professor, Hugh MacColl, one of the founders of Seville Football Club.

We also made a new friend, Lindsay from Glasgow Football Tours. She made a cracking wee [video](#) about her first visit to the Cemetery. For our part of the celebrations to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first International Football Match, we will be hosting, with Lindsay, a Special Football Tour of the Cemetery.

For more information about the Hampden Collection, visit their website [The Hampden Collection](#)



Jessie MacLachlan

It has been wonderful to see Jessie MacLachlan's Celtic Cross proudly standing looking out towards Oban and Argyll. The project team consisting of Mary Ann Kennedy, Prof. Wilson MacLeod, and Dr Priscilla Scott did a remarkable job of raising the money to restore the stone and re-igniting Jessie's memory. In September 2021, we were treated to a haunting performance of Jessie's favourite songs by Mary Ann and guitarist Finlay Wells at [Jessie's graveside](#).

May 2022 saw the culmination of the project and Jessie's stone was finally laid in place. On the day of the commemoration, Gaelic sang aloud in the Cemetery, just as it would have at Jessie's celebrated funeral. Members of Jessie's family and of the local Gaelic speaking community joined residents to hear Mary Ann singing some of Jessie's most celebrated songs. There was a weekend of online celebration festival where Dr Scott delivered a fascinating presentation on Jessie's life and impact and Mary Ann taught us some of Jessie's most famous songs.

The South Glasgow Heritage and Environment Trust

We uncovered the intriguing, and certainly dodgy beginnings of the Cathcart Cemetery Company Limited. When we were asked by friends the South Glasgow

Heritage and Environment Trust (SGHET) to write a [blog](#) for their newsletter, we had to share the story. We have since went on strengthen our friendship with the SGHET on a 'Year of Stories' funding bid. Although the bid was ultimately unsuccessful, we learned so much about the funding application process by doing it and made new friends in the process.

In the press

Jessie MacLachlan's campaign garnered local, national and international press interest and was our largest story in the press.

The Hampden Collection's drive towards UNESCO World Heritage Status also led to articles in [The Herald](#) and the [Scotsman](#) this year.

We all know Cathcart Cemetery is a wonderous green space with the most amazing light, but it was good to have that confirmed by including Cathcart Cemetery in [Time Out's '5 eerily beautiful graveyards to visit in the UK'](#) article in September 2021. Thank you to Peter Ross for the mention.

In November 2021, Nerys Tunncliffe of Glasgow Archives wrote an interesting article on the Cemetery in the Glasgow Times. Nerys managed to uncover some wonderful photos of the Hood Mausoleum when it was first built, including one with the complete sphinx head statue.

Film maker Sam Ruddy, who also happens to live in Cemetery Gatehouse produced a wonderful film about the Cathcart. It really captures the spirit and the light of the Cathcart. We were delighted when Sam won a Royal Television Society Scotland Student Award. You can watch Sam's film [here](#).

When we were awarded Charity status, we were also featured in the East Renfrewshire Community Magazine. The magazine goes out to all households in the Council area.

Talks and tours



Like everyone else, the pandemic forced us online and we hosted several online talks to raise money for the Friends Group. We learned to enjoy them, especially the trauma of being 'zoom bombed' at our first event. All talks were well attended and supported, for which we are grateful. Thank you to Charlie Guy, Graeme Brown from the Hampden Collection, the engagement staff at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and to everyone who bought tickets.

Summer 2021 saw us offer our General Tours of the Cemetery for the first time in person. We were nervous at first, but we really enjoyed doing them and we were blown away by the response to them. We learned something new about the Cemetery and the people buried there on each tour.

The late great Roger Guthrie of the Alexander Thompson Society was the first to offer tours of the Cemetery in 2018. Our tour success would be nothing without Roger's highly entertaining and knowledgeable foundations. Roger was a good friend to us and the Cemetery. We will miss him very much.

The Cemetery on Social Media

The Friends Group is on Twitter (@CathCem) and Facebook – both as a public page and now a public group. We are slowly building up the followers. 181 joined us last year on Twitter and our tweets gained thousands of impressions. The Facebook Page followers rose from 760 to 921 between 24 June 2021 and 30 June 2022 with the Facebook Group having 222 members by 30 June 2022.

Website

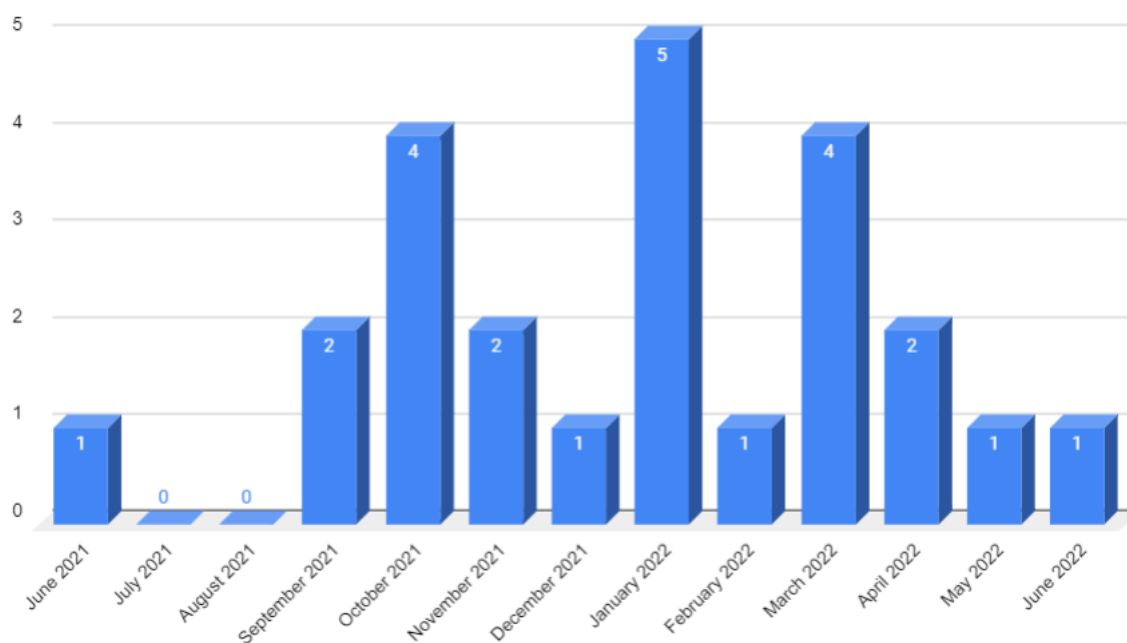
We launched our new Friends of Cathcart Cemetery in November 2021 with a [call](#) for photographs of the Cemetery for our [online gallery](#). We received dozens of wonderful photographs of the Cemetery, building a wonderful picture of the site. During the reporting period, the website has been visited over 2,000 times by visitors from all over the world.

Cemetery online map

We have two online maps: a general tour of the Cemetery and a specialised Footballers tour, both available on our [website](#). Views of the maps have steadily increased since its creation, with over 102,000 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 we ask for a voluntary donation once we have located the grave.

The Grave Locating Service had 24 requests during the reporting time averaging 1 to 2 queries per month.

Financial Report

The accounting period is taken from the date of incorporation as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), which is 24 June 2021, to the end of our accounting period on 30 June 2022.

Pre incorporation funds of £1,147.54 have been donated to the new entity in accordance with best practice. A very satisfactory £726.00 in ticket sales for our cemetery tours and a donation figure of £244.76 have helped to ensure a healthy balance carried forward.

The accounts have been approved by our Independent Examiner Gordon Ridland CA.

Plans for 2022-2023

A Year of Discovery and Growth

We feel that 2022 has been very much about establishing ourselves as charity and the work to strengthen our governance structures will continue. We want to be the best position to take forward meaningful work in the Cemetery. Throughout 2023, we will continue to work with East Renfrewshire Council, the Netherlee Community Council to ensure the Cemetery thrives and our understanding of the Cemetery grows.

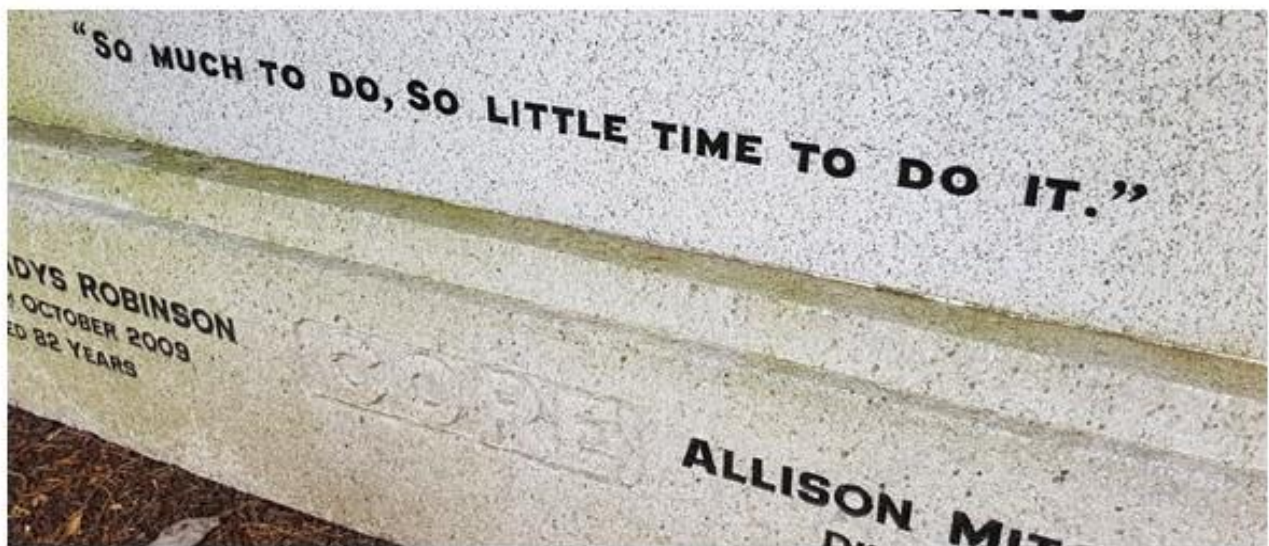
Discovery

So far, we've concentrated our efforts on discovering the history behind Cathcart Cemetery – who is buried in the Cemetery with a story to tell. With possibly over 60,000 people buried here, we have a long way to go in telling the stories of the Cemetery and the community surrounding the Cemetery. These are community stories and we need to work with people and groups who have an interest in the history of the Cemetery. We will continue to grow our partners groups.

As well as discovering the human and community stories of the Cemetery, we also want to explore how we can tell the story of the Cemetery environment. The Victorian section of Cathcart is a semi-mature woodland, with a rich and diverse ecology, and we want to discover the animals and plants who have made their homes in the Cemetery. But first we need to find out what the current state of the Wood, and how we can support the ecology of the Cemetery. Throughout 2023, we will continue to forge links and partnerships with groups working in that area, such as the local environment groups, the RSPB, The Conservation Volunteers and others to find opportunities to work together to discover and support Cathcart Cemetery as a place of nature. As ever, this work will have a community, citizen-science focus.

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 email us at cathcartcemeteryfriends@gmail.com



**Friends of
Cathcart Cemetery (SCIO)
SC051071**