

Friends of
cathcart
cemetery



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The Friends of Cathcart Cemetery

Trustees

Jacqui Fernie

Ian Gall

Jonathan Tremlett

Management Group

Emma Dickson

Jacqui Fernie

Ian Gall

Jonathan Tremlett

Derrick Watson

Welcome

Welcome to the Friends of Cathcart Cemetery Trustees Annual Report. The reporting period for this report is 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

This is the third annual report since the Friends of Cathcart Cemetery became a charity, and again, the Friends Group has faced challenges which has limited the scope of what we can achieve now, and in the future.

With East Renfrewshire Council taking a place-based approach to developing and planning, we hope to contribute to their discussions and deliberations on the importance of heritage in civic life. We have started what we hope, is a positive direction of travel with the Council and we look forward to genuinely working in partnership with East Renfrewshire Council.



A report produced on our behalf by *Community Enterprise* highlights the massive potential for supporting local community wellbeing and income generation in the Cemetery through heritage, and we hope this report (which you can download from our website) can form the basis of future discussions with the Council.

Unfortunately, we have not yet heard about our application to have the Cemetery included in Historic Environment Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, but we are still hopeful we will be included in 2025. This would be a massive boost to our profile as

an important place of heritage and remembrance in Glasgow, Scotland and internationally.

Despite these issues, we haven't stopped telling the world how great Cathcart Cemetery is and about the interesting people buried there. Emma gave a fascinating presentation at our AGM on the industrialists, entrepreneurs, and inventors buried in the Cemetery – literally the men who built Glasgow. We also gave talks and connected with groups across the local area.

We're delighted that our Remembrance Sunday event has grown year on year. The annual laying of a poppy wreath at the Sir Roger Blomfield designed Cross of Sacrifice to remember those 242 souls buried here is now a staple of our programme of activities.

Through our Grave Location Service, we also remain a conduit for people wanting to explore family history, and this aspect of our work continues to attract attention from all over the world.

Again, we are minded that we are a small group of volunteers, with huge ambitions. In April we ran an online volunteer recruitment campaign. Unfortunately, this didn't yield any new volunteers. We will continue to look for new ways to engage with potential volunteers.

Jacqui Fernie (Co-chair)

Ian Gall (Treasurer)

Jonathan Tremlett (Co-chair)

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

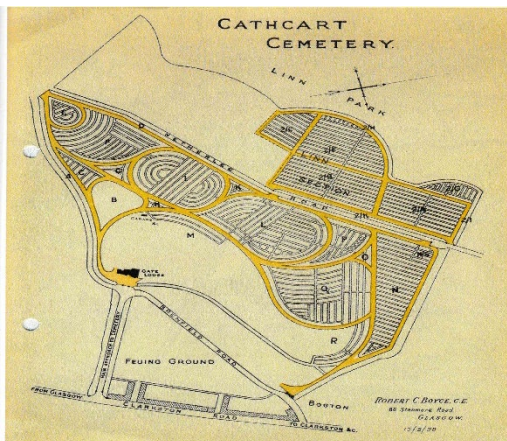


Fig. 3.8 Cathcart Cemetery: 1938 Layout Plan

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

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 the Charity and what we do for the Cemetery becomes. It will also mean you can vote to elect people on to the Management Committee (Trustees). We hope to launch a Membership Scheme in 2024.

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment

No additional Trustees have been appointed during the reporting period.

Our Year



Community Enterprise

In early 2023, the Friends Group was accepted on to the Accelerate programme, a Scottish Government funded initiative delivered by Community Enterprise. The programme provides free business and capacity building support to non-trading third sector organisations in Scotland seeking to become more sustainable. Community Enterprise produced a report for us which is designed to inform discussion between ourselves, East Renfrewshire Council and other interested parties about future use of the garden cemetery and activities to support the ongoing responsibility of maintaining and improving the site, grouped around the themes of:

- History and Heritage
- Natural Environment and Sustainability
- Recreation and Events
- Health and Wellbeing
- Culture and Creativity

The report has benchmarked the Cemetery against other historic Garden Cemeteries in the UK. The report sets out several recommendations, chief of which is a nurturing of a collaborative working relationship with East Renfrewshire Council. The Council is currently developing new Local Development Plans (LDP3), and we hope that we can help inform their thinking around Sustainable Places and Heritage. Through the Councillor for the area, Annette Ireland, the Council is now in receipt of the report, and we hope the report will form the basis of our future discussions.

Restoring Joseph Taylor's Grave

In early 2024, the great-grandsons of one of the National Football Team's first captains and 'Scotch Professor' Joseph Taylor started a campaign to raise funds to restore Joseph's grave. It was our great pleasure to attend the unveiling of the restored headstone and new interpretation stone in April 2024.

[Scottish football pioneer Joseph Taylor's grave restored \(scottishsporthistory.com\)](https://www.scottishsporthistory.com)

[Memory of Scottish football legend protected after revamp of historic grave - Daily Record](#)

The Cemetery on the radio

In October 2023, journalist and author Peter Ross took an evocative stroll around the Cemetery for BBC Radio Scotland. You can hear Peter's piece about Cathcart at around 23 minutes.

[Sunday - Violence in the Middle East - BBC Sounds](#)

Football Square Mile



This year, our friends at the Football Square Mile facilitated the marking of the Cemetery as the final resting place of many of the 'Scotch Professors': the men, like Joseph Taylor and Hugh McColl, who brought the world the modern game that is played today. This marks a milestone in the project to have the Football Square Mile designated as an UNESCO World Heritage Site.

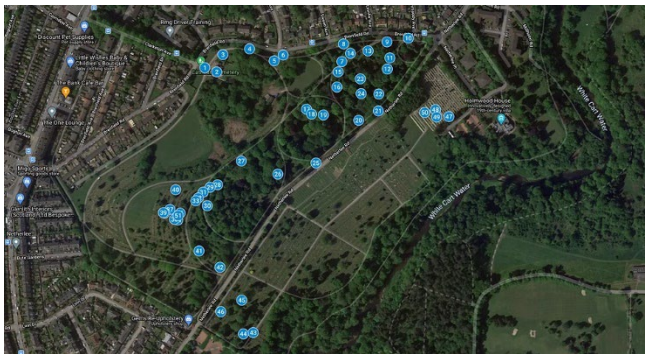
The Cemetery on Social Media

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 885 followers. The Facebook Page has 1063 likes and the Facebook Group has 283 members on 30 June 2024.

Website

Our website continues to be an important means for our followers to contact us. During the reporting period, the website has been visited 1016 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](#). Views of the maps have steadily increased since their creation, with over 179,968 views at the end of the reporting period.

Grave Location Service

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 Location Service had 34 requests during the reporting period.

Financial Report

This report concerns the accounting period from the 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. Donations of £847.15 have been the main source of income giving us a healthy balance of £2460.23 to carry forward.

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

Plans for 2025

Our Plans for 2025 very much depend on building our relationship with East Renfrewshire Council. We very much hope that the new Local Development Plans developed by the Council the centrality of heritage to the health and wellbeing of local communities will be recognised. We hope that the Friends of Cathcart Cemetery and the local community will be able to contribute positively to these ongoing discussions. This hope will be strengthened by our inclusion in Historic Environment Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.

While we are unable to settle on a direction without the support of East Renfrewshire Council, we will continue to promote the Cemetery at every opportunity; discover more stories of the people buried in the Cemetery and highlight the place the Cemetery plays in the local community. We will develop a Community Engagement Plan which will explore and understand what the Community feels about the Cemetery.

We are still a small group of volunteers, and finding people to take on the volunteer roles which will help us grow is proving difficult. We will continue to find opportunities to encourage volunteering with the Friends of Cathcart Cemetery.