

GRAVE CONCERNS

The Newsletter of
The Friends of Linwood Cemetery
Bringing Linwood Cemetery Alive!

Issue 6, August 2013



From the Chair

We are now at the start of our eighth year of operation as a Charitable Trust and 14th year as self-appointed guardians of Linwood Cemetery. As we approach Linwood Cemetery's 130-year anniversary next year we are beginning to see signs of a tidier post-earthquake cemetery, thanks to the City Council's *Make Safe* programme and family-funded restorations.

We are grateful for this input, as not only are the grave plots personal expressions of love and visual reminders of Christchurch's heritage, but they make up a valuable green space for our local community's well-being and emotional recovery.

As a Trust, we continue to do what we can to preserve Linwood Cemetery with our seasonal working bees. We promote it's value to the community with our events. Hopefully we are approaching the time when we will be allowed to contribute more to the physical preservation of the cemetery and, ideally, on principles that are derived from a back bone of common sense and investment by the City Council.

Craig Cormack, Chair

Contents

From the Chair
From the Secretary
The Cemetery
Unusual Ways of Dying
Its All About Numbers
Richard Reflects
Oral History Project
Register of Friends
Kids Fest 2013
Patience is a Virtue
Old Age New Age-ism
Did You Know?
Boredom Busting
What's That Plant?
2013 and Beyond
Get Involved-Please
Key Dates 2013/2014
Our Next Issue

From the Secretary

Each year in July, we evaluate the Trust's performance. As volunteers, this worthwhile exercise makes us sit up and take stock of exactly what we have achieved so we can plan an optimum way forward. The Trustees and additional volunteers, have donated around **1,970** unpaid hours in the past financial year to the preservation of Linwood Cemetery both directly through gardening this 20-acre site and indirectly by promotional activities and research. In theory, if those hours were to be charged out to the City Council at an average of \$25 per hour we would have received over \$49,000. It could be said that, in being volunteers, we help the rates bill stretch further, or help pay for a member of Council staff.

*"Volunteers are not paid
-- not because they are
worthless, but because
they are priceless."*

Please contact the Trust if you are interested in donating some time in researching or gardening for us. The **Power Pod** scheme is outlined on our website.

The Cemetery

The Friends presented to the Public Hearings Panel of the *Proposed Revisions to the Cemetery By-laws, Cemetery Handbook and Master Plan* in March, which was well received. Councillors were impressed by the passion and concern of all the 28 spoken submissions but were disappointed to find, at their first meeting, that there was no budget to implement any changes. We understand that this is being addressed.

To deal with earthquake damage in its cemeteries, the CCC has now put in place its **Make Safe** programme. **Make Safe** aims to evaluate the extent and cost of the earthquake damage and determine the scope of repair throughout CCC-managed cemeteries.

In June, the Trust met with representatives of the CCC and City Care in Linwood Cemetery to discuss the **Make Safe** programme as it concerns Linwood Cemetery. Any headstone pieces fallen off the grave plot will, where possible and as necessary, be returned to the plot and any headstones positioned neatly, raised on wood and turned so they can be



read. We are very grateful that the CCC selected Linwood Cemetery as the first cemetery to be dealt with under this programme. Only when the CCC

Make Safe evaluation has been completed will the Trust know what progress we can make with our planned restoration programme.

The Trust has been advocating to the CCC to help ease the financial burden of the preservation of ancestors plots for descendants by resisting making the cemetery a Heritage Site which would mean Resource Consent would be needed for any work done in the cemetery. We have suggested that reducing, or waiving, the permitting fees charged by the CCC for a set period, would encourage families to preserve their ancestors grave plots. We still wait the outcome of these discussions.

Unusual Ways of Dying

It's a dangerous world out there. Through our research into those in Linwood Cemetery who had an inquest into their death, we have found some sad and curious ways that people have died in the past:

- Hit by a block of butter whilst sailing
- Hit by a roll of carpet whilst shopping
- Hit by a lump of coal
- Swallowed a brass paper fastener.



"Read all about it!" on our website.

It's All About Numbers

As well as letting us know about a family plot that needs attention, or if you are unhappy with the state of any part of Linwood Cemetery, please also report it to the CCC via their call centre on **941 8666** or email **CCC_CustomerServices@ccc.govt.nz**.

Richard Reflects

A series of snippets about an interesting Cantabrian buried in Linwood Cemetery from Local Historian and Trustee, Richard Greenaway.



Born into a landed family, in Christchurch, in 1873, Effie Julia Margaret CARDALE was, throughout her life, a member of the congregation of St. Michael's and All Angel's Church. It was through seeking out new arrivals in the parish and discovering cases of

sickness and need that Effie was introduced to her life's activity; social work.

Among the positions which Effie held were those of Inspector for and Secretary to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Women and Children and Secretary-visitor to the Mayor's Coal and Blanket Fund.

Effie was 'slight, intensely energetic and observant'. She struck fear into many, including the vicars at St. Michael's. She lacked social graces, dressed dowdily and lived frugally. Children in St. Michael's congregation noted her appearance. They also knew vaguely that she dealt with such foreign and repellent subjects as domestic violence, poverty, unemployment, overcrowding and unmarried mothers. Thus they chose to sit as far away from her as possible.

For a long period Effie paid for two children in adverse circumstances to attend St. Michael's Church Day School. At her death, she left most of her substantial estate to the church. To this day the *Cardale Assistance* allows needy children to attend the school.

Many people thought Effie super-efficient. A verse in the 1936 book *In the Public Eye* runs thus:

When erring folk you wish to help
and do not know what to do
Just telephone Miss Cardale
and she will do the rest.



For her work, Effie was awarded the MBE in 1949. She died on 19th October 1960 and is buried in Block 17 Plot 183SS of the cemetery.

See our website for sources and links to more information.

Photo of Effie Julia Margaret Cardale. New Zealand Free Lance : Photographic prints and negatives. Ref: PAColl-6203-42. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. <http://natlib.govt.nz/records/23053858>

Oral History Project

Despite several set backs, we have completed filming interviews of people, mainly descendants of those buried in the cemetery from the original 2007 project who were willing to still take part. The process has given us a wealth of interesting information which we still have to edit and make publicly available. We have also learned a lot about film interviewing using HD digital technology and how important recording this information is for prosperity. We are most grateful to the participants who gave us their free-time and for their continued patience whilst we edit and process the material. Once we have completed that stage, we hope to find the time to continue interviewing people and receiving filmed, taped and written materials for our website. Contact us if you would like to be included in the project.

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Facebook (thefriendsoflinwoodcemetery) (Linwood_Cem_Pal)

Register of Friends

We are grateful to those Friends who have renewed their support for us for a further year and especially to those who generously included donations for our operational costs. Please consider joining them in supporting us and having a voice in the preservation of Linwood Cemetery as an increasingly significant heritage space in Christchurch. Please think of future generations. We need them to continue our work. **Join our Register of Friends.**

Kids Fest 2013

This year we ran 4 sessions for TV3/CCC Kids Fest with a total of 37 children from 18 families. Once again, we were really pleased at how enthusiastic and engaged not only the children but also their care-givers were with what we told them about Linwood Cemetery.

Thank you so much for the Cemetery Discovery Trial we had a fantastic time... (and) we learnt a lot about the Linwood Cemetery. We also ... think this is the best Kids Fest activity we have been to.

Michelle, Thomas and Charles

Patience is a Virtue



We know all about having to develop patience as Volunteers for the Trust and hope you do too! We are very behind with requests for photos from the

public and can only apologise. We promise we will get back to you. If this delay becomes an urgent need for you, please let us know.

Old Age New Age-ism

A series about interesting symbols on headstones in Linwood Cemetery .



Often mistaken for a Star of David, this symbol is that of the Our Father's Church which was formed in July 1892. A 'Free Church' devised by James O'Bryen HOARE who is buried in B36P272. A former Anglican preacher at St Paul's, Papanui, he chaired The Metaphysical Club of Christchurch which he started in 1897 as a forum for lectures and information "To promote interest in & Practice of a Spiritual Philosophy of Life & Health".

The Star shows the six aspects of the Church's Reign of Law - "Let there be Light" by which it's followers were to aspire to; Constant Advance, Power of Life, Solidarity of (Human) Race, Brotherhood of Man, Divinity of Man, All Things Sacred.

So far, as well as James HOARE's headstone, we have found also found this symbol on B30P83 Osborne COOMBE, a music teacher, and we believe the brother of the Club's Secretary Miss Coombe. There is an interesting divorce petition about one of its followers on our website. Please let us know if you find this symbol in other cemeteries or have further information about the Our Father's Church or The Metaphysical Club.

Did you know?

Linwood Cemetery has many treasures including

- 50 Rubys
- 17 Pearls
- 5 Beryls
- 2 DIAMONDS
- 2 JEWELS
- 1 Sapphire



and Linwood Cemetery needs more Friends to help preserve it.

Boredom Busting

Here are some fun things to do in Linwood Cemetery at weekends and over the holidays:

- tidying and litter picking competitions,
- drawing, photographing or filming plots and headstones,
- looking at what headstones tell us,
- looking for your ancestors,
- looking for the famous Cantabrians shown on the three heritage boards,
- having a picnic,
- walking your dog,
- looking for the butterfly on the Peacock Mausoleum,
- identifying birds, trees and shrubs
- measuring the tram line in big footsteps
- looking for the headstone of the first person buried in Linwood Cemetery
- check out the Rainy Day Activities on our website.

What's That Plant?



One of the most common memories we have heard from those in the local community is how they used to pick wild asparagus in Linwood Cemetery. It is believed that the plant grew from

the seeds of the asparagus fern that had been used in funeral wreaths.

Whilst many people have fond memories as a child of being sent to the cemetery to pick asparagus for tea, it was also harvested by the enterprising and sold in pubs.

Eventually the asparagus was over-picked and any remnants sprayed out of the cemetery. Well almost! If you look carefully in Spring, you might find some persistent asparagus ferns peeping up between the foliage of other plants and shrubs. Shhhh, don't tell any one!



2013 and beyond

Short term goals

- continue to tidy, garden and act as self-appointed guardians of Linwood Cemetery,
- secure operational funding for the 2013/2014 financial year,
- continue to publicise the work of The Friends, and expand the Register of Friends, to become self-funding,
- complete the 2007 Oral History Project and create a framework for ease of contribution.
- celebrate the 130th Anniversary of the opening of Linwood Cemetery in October 2014.

Medium to long term goals

- earthquake recovery and preservation as guided by the CCC,
- complete the grave plot register on the website,
- develop curriculum based programmes for schools and youth groups.

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Get involved - Please:

Pick up after yourself, your dog and other people.

Put rubbish in the car park bins or take it home.

Report graffiti (03 941 8666) / 0800 VANDAL.

If you have ancestors in the cemetery, visit them often and tidy their plot (staying safe).

Help at our Working Bees.

Take home a bag of pine needles to mulch your strawberries or paths.

Share information about your ancestors on our website.

Ask a Master Stonemason about restoring your ancestor's grave.

Become a Friend of Linwood Cemetery.

Give The Friends of Linwood Cemetery a donation.

Key dates 2013 - 2014

Events

Saturday 14th Sept 2013 - Working Bee (10am-noon). Please bring your own basic gardening tools and wear appropriate clothing. Meet at Linwood Cemetery, Butterfield Avenue Car Park.

Sunday 20th Oct 2013 - CCC / NZ Historic Places Trust Reconnect: experience heritage Tour (10am-noon) Join Richard for a Tour of Linwood Cemetery. (TBC)

Saturday 2nd Nov 2013 - Anniversary Day



Join Richard for a Tour to celebrate Neighbourhood Week and the 129th Anniversary of the opening of Linwood Cemetery. Bring a

flask and sandwiches and stay after to talk to Trustees about our work or investigate the cemetery on your own.

Saturday 1st March 2014 - Bromley Community Fair, Bromley Community Centre. (11am-2pm)

March 2014 - Working Bee (TBC).

Saturday 22nd March 2013 - Woolston Community Gala, Woolston Park 11am-3pm

Sunday 21 April 2014 - ANZAC Commemoration Service (11am)

June 2014 - Working Bee (TBC)

July 2014 - TV3KidsFest - Discover Linwood Cemetery Activities for Kids (TBC)

End October 2014 - 130th Anniversary of the opening of Linwood Cemetery (event TBC)

(Contact us for details, sign up to *Facebook* or *Twitter* or check our website in case of cancellations.)

Trustee Board Meetings

The Trustees meet on the evening of the 2nd Wednesday of each month except in January. We would welcome hearing from you if you are interested in supporting us at a decision-making level, or maybe you have an area of expertise that you could donate to us? We particularly need people to research, add data to our website and garden the cemetery.



Further information on articles in the newsletter can be found on our website www.linwoodcemetery.org.nz

Our next issue

Issue 7 of *Grave Concerns* is scheduled for February 2014. If you have any questions, would like to contribute suggestions or content to our newsletter, please contact us by 1st January 2014.

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