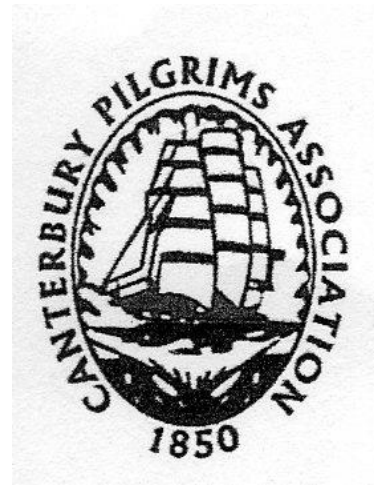


PILGRIMS PRESS

Official Newsletter for Canterbury
Pilgrims & Early Settlers
Association Inc.



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Christchurch 8041

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February 2021

Meetings and Outings

Unless otherwise notified meetings and outings are held on the third Sunday of each month, with meetings being held at Knights Stream School, 1 Killarney Road Halswell.

2021 Meeting and Outing Dates

February 21	March 21	AGM
April 18	May 16	June 20
July 18	August 15	September 19
October 17	November 21	December 16

This Pilgrims Press is printed for **February and March**
Contributions need to be received early for inclusion in upcoming issues.

CANTERBURY PILGRIMS & EARLY SETTLERS ASSOC INC

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Patron	Arthur Northcote	03 923 2202
President	Beverley Bolland email: bcbolland@gmail.com	021 023 00841
Vice President	Patsy Wardell	027 4438 465
Secretary	Linda McFarlane email: linda.mcfarlane@xtra.co.nz cell phone: 027 331 4972	03 322 5201
Treasurer	Michelle Brailsford email: michelle.graham@xtra.co.nz	0272239503
Committee	Elizabeth Dixon Brian Dixon Andrea King Judy Pethig	03 312 5705 03 312 5705 03 383 5488 03 354 8352
Auditor	Mr Victor Sykes (C.A Ret'd)	

Canterbury Museum Trust Board 3 Year term Representative

Beverley Bolland

Committee Meetings

Generally the committee meets directly after each meeting in Knights Stream School, Halswell, or on the following Thursday morning.

Bank Account

BNZ 020800-0183140-00 for all transactions.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in any letters or articles in this newsletter are the authors own and are not necessarily those of the Canterbury Pilgrims & Early Settlers Association Inc or the Editor

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Dear Members,

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and happy New Year and are now ready for whatever 2021 may throw at us. Here in NZ we are all grateful that we can still travel around our country with a reasonable amount of impunity from Covid-19 unlike a lot of people overseas, the UK in particular. Long may it continue.

It is the beginning of our new financial year too , which means your subs are now due. Make this the year where you are on top of everything and pay it right now. \$20 for an emailed newsletter sub and \$30 for a posted copy. Our bank account number is on the bottom of page 2. We don't want to have chase late payers up all year.

This year we have a new home, our first meeting there , the AGM in March, will be held in Knights Stream School, 1 Killarney Road, Halswell. This is a brand new school building with all mod cons and plenty of parking. You will find a map and further information on pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter.

Don't forget to check into our web site and Facebook page to keep up with the play and make a few contributions along the way, it all adds to the interest of our Association.

Hopefully the weather will be more settled in February and we can be sure of fine weather for our outings. For those not in Christchurch we have had some sizzling days, almost unheard of temperatures of 37 and 35. I for one am glad I'm not trying to dress each day in 1850's clothing, let alone cook using firewood!

This is also the year in which we turn 98 so quite a momentous year all round for us. So make sure you have us marked down on your calendar and come along each month, you are the folk who make up our Association and we look forward to seeing you all again.

Kindest Regards,
Beverley Bolland *Hon President.*

February 21st
Coton Cottage & Hororata Museum
Cotons Road off Bealey Road. Hororata.
1.30pm
Afternoon tea \$5 per person



We are starting this year off with a trip to Coton Cottage. The weather will be settled and the ladies out there are willing to especially provide afternoon tea for \$5 per person for us which is more than reasonable. Please leave a message with Beverley if you want to have afternoon tea, as the ladies need to know how many to cater for, be a shame to miss out on the muffin or slice because you forgot to say. You will pay direct to them on the day.

Coton cottage is a remarkably spacious cob cottage with five rooms built by George Coton from Yorkshire for his wife Sarah Jane in 1864. For the first 10 years they held Church services there every Sunday until the districts Anglican Church was built in 1875. It has recently been restored and furnished.

The Hororata Museum will be open too and is in the same reserve, almost next door.

It will make for a nice afternoon out so make sure you keep the day free and join us. If you need a ride let us know and we will car pool if possible for those who need transport. Please note the earlier start time. I'm looking forward to it.

Notice of meeting.

NINETYSEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

21 March 2021

The President and Committee invite members to enjoy an afternoon tea with us. Our speaker today will be John Thacker on some of the treasures he holds.

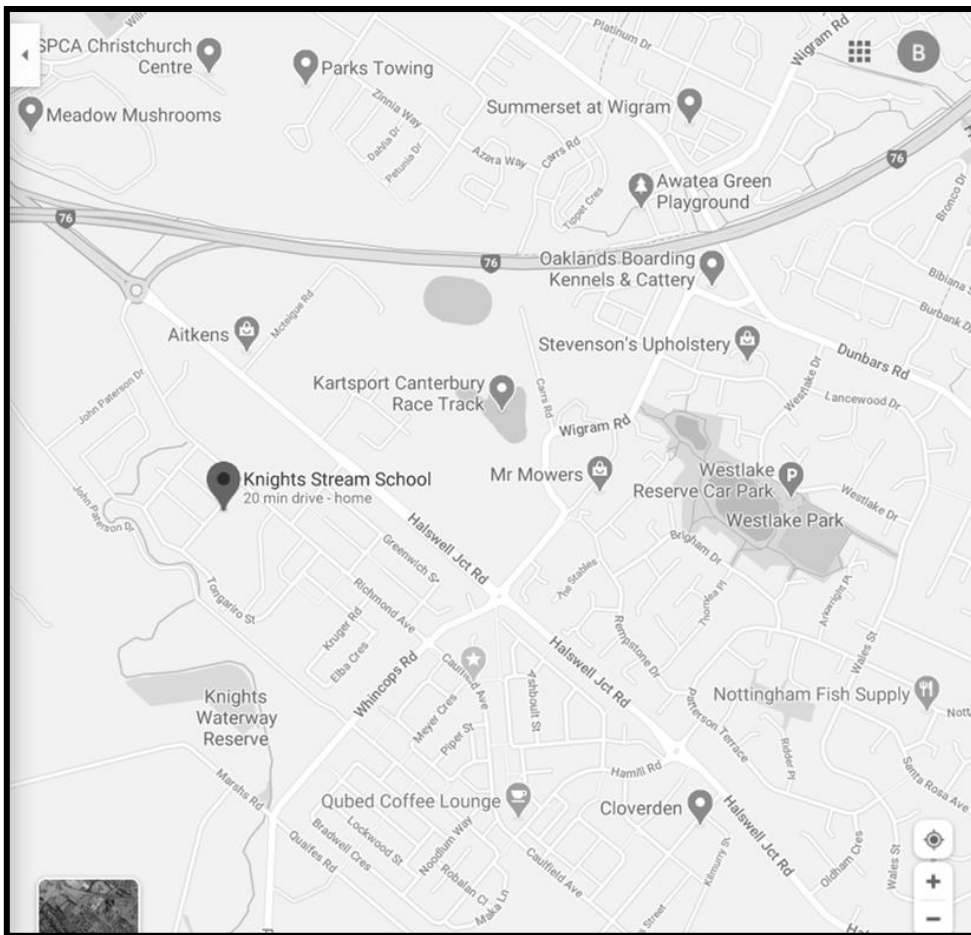
AGENDA :

1. Notice of meeting
2. Welcome
3. Apologies
4. In Remembrance
5. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 15 March 2020
6. Matters Arising
7. Correspondence
8. Presentation and Adoption of Presidents Report
9. Presentation and Adoption of Museum Report
10. Presentation and Adoption of the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended December 31st 2020
11. Election of Officers and Committee
12. Nomination of Auditor
13. General Business
14. Any other Matters

March 21
AGM
Knights Stream School
1 Killarney Road. Halswell.
2pm

This is your opportunity to come along and have your say on the running of the Association and to suggest changes if you wish. You are the association, so please come. The committee are all willing to stand again which speaks volumes.

Our new home for this year is marked on the map below for your information. Those of you on the internet can just put the address into Google and if you need them directions will appear. For me in the North West of Christchurch it is only 20 mins away as you can see on the map below. If you have a navigation system in the car the address will guide you. For paper maps you will need an up to date printed map as it is a new area, it isn't on my old 2012 map!



With more of you with email we have decided to email all those financial members a copy of our audited accounts prior to the AMG for your perusal. It gives you an opportunity to digest the figures at ease and reduces our costs at the same time. There will still be available some printed copies at the AGM, and of course our accounts are filed with the Registrar of Inc Societies just the same as always.

Your committee will be providing Afternoon Tea and John Thacker will give us a short talk on some of the treasures he holds from the Banks Peninsular area.

Thistle Inspectors

Did you know that there were Thistle inspectors in Canterbury? I came across this term recently in a book called *'The Evolution of a City'* by the CCC. Published in 1948, it covers the growth of the City from 1850 to 1903. Turns out, in 1866 The Thistle Ordinance was passed . Californian Thistles and Nodding Thistles were on the march across New Zealand and Christchurch was no exception.

Letters to the Lyttelton Times reflected their concerns over this. One writer who



signed himself as *A Resident in the Neighbourhood* wrote in March 1867, asking *"Is the Thistle Ordinance to be enforced or not? Here and there persons have been threatened for having a solitary thistle on their land, whilst at the present moment thousands are allowed to flourish upon lands on the south bank of the Avon , immediately above the cross road from the Fendalton Road to Papanui, near Mr Jeffrey's farm. The Inspector has known of these thistles long ago , and his attention was very recently*

called to them, but as it seems, to little use. The neighbourhood must inevitably be covered with their seed, unless the necessary means are immediately adopted for their destruction. Indeed I fear the seed is already being shed"

The position of Thistle Inspector appears to have been a sought after one as several letters to the Provincial Secretary show. Mr H Lough of Browns Bridge, Leithfield applied in September 1866 to the Provincial Secretary for the position saying *"after an unusually fine winter and early Spring have caused them to grow more freely than usual."* *"Sefton township has several fine plants, and in the Kowai River,"* he finished saying *"I beg to apply for the appointment and I will do my best to remedy this evil"*.

However Robert C Shearman the Police Commissioner in Canterbury in 1866 requested that policemen be designated as Inspectors. With the result that 8 men were chosen, all Constables or Sergeants.

In one weekly report from Monday January 8 to Saturday January 13 in 1866 one inspector covered 28 places in six locations in the Heathcote District. Ranging from Christchurch Gully , Heathcote, Ellesmere, Maori Gully and Tai Tapu. He listed

the farmers and noted the state of the infestations, ie, *Had some but been cut or a few growing but not seeding*. Generally speaking the thistles appear to be under reasonable control in the Heathcote Area.

Canterbury Finance in February 1866 shows that Expenses under the Thistle Ordinance were £250.00. To keep it in perspective the same amount was listed as a grant for Public Amusements and as a subsidy for the ferry over the Rakaia. So not an inordinate amount.

Complaints continued to be received in 1866 about farmers and run holders who had a lot of thistles. William Wilson complained about Mr Jeffs, Mr Riders, Mr Reeves, Mrs John Boys and Elleses Bush. Complaints were also made of John Plimmer of Harewood Island (Kaiapoi Island).

Thistles were to be an ongoing problem for years. John Shand, Chairman of the Riccarton Road Board requested a Thistle Inspector on 13 November 1869.

The penalty for failing to destroy thistles generally ranged between 10/- or 40 /- (shillings). Not to exceed £20.

It was still an ongoing problem in 1890 as an article in the Press shows.

The Californian Thistle is by no means extinct. Mr Giles, farmer, at Kaiapoi Island, covered a square chain with a stack of wheat straw for 2 years allowing cattle to tread it in . After two years believing not a vestige of thistles remained he ploughed up the land and to his regret the plants are coming up as thick as ever.

In 1910 an article in the Press stated that it was discovered that the Californian Thistle seed was being accidentally brought into the country in alsike (clover) seeds. It was too hard to separate and as a result most provinces in New Zealand were refusing to accept it. By 1921 The Californian Thistle was classified as a noxious weed. There was a court case over thistle in hay bought for stock feed. The upshot was a case of buyer beware or asking for a warranty that it was thistle free.

By 1923 Thistles were widespread but not out of control except perhaps in the Waimak riverbed, Eyre and Rangiora counties, also areas of Hurunui, Blyth, Leader and Waiau riverbeds where it was remarked control would be difficult and costly.

Thistles are an ongoing problem still in Canterbury but not to the extent that they were, livestock generally won't eat them (the exception being goats who will it seems eat anything!) and they contaminate crops. Farmers these days have a different arsenal for removing thistles; biological, sprays, mowing. (and of course, the good old fashioned grubbing!)