



COUNCILLOR MISS M. B. HOWARD, J.P.,  
Chairman Christchurch Reserves Committee.

### *Brief History of the Property.*

IN the year 1852 the Canterbury Association sold to Joseph Northland Cottrell of Sumner a block of land of 50 acres included in which was that property now known as Abberley. Some 14 months later the land was disposed of to George Gould of Christchurch; ten years later on the 17th August, 1863, George Gould sold to Thomas James Maling that portion of 4½ acres which now comprises the park.

Mr. Maling built the first residence thereon, cultivated the grounds which he laid out and planted. The property he named "Abberley" after the place of that name in Worcestershire, England, so that it may be said that the history of Abberley commenced from that date.

On the 19th July, 1878, the property was disposed of to Frederick William Delamain, who five years later transferred it to Edward Hatfield Brown of Mt. Thomas, and Henry Samuel Brown of Christchurch. There was a change of ownership a few months later, and on the 10th August, 1883, Thomas William Maude of Christchurch and Henry Samuel Brown became the owners. They then leased the property to John Thomas Brown for "42 years if the lessee shall so long live."

The lease was determined on the 6th August, 1896, when the property was transferred to Mrs. Martha Allen of Christchurch.

The next change of ownership was on the 27th November, 1905, when the late John Hobbs Kirk acquired the property, residing thereat until the date of his death on the 12th September, 1938.