Friends of Flaybrick

Summer 2022

RC7 Memorial Garden

RC7 is an area adjacent to the Roman Catholic chapel site that has been fenced in and neglected for years. It had become a fly tipping site and was in a terrible condition. It's estimated that several thousand people are interred here.

The project began on 3 January this year when a small group of volunteers began by 'laying' the hawthorns around the perimeter of the area into a hedge. The grounds maintenance staff then cleared most of the undergrowth using power tools. Bramble roots have been dug out, rubbish removed, weed suppression material laid and wood chippings spread over the area. Four wild flower beds have been formed using logs and flower seeds sown. The communal graves have been tidied and lavender planted. Two benches made by volunteer Brian have also been installed. A short service of dedication took place on 21st July led by Rev Smith from St Oswald's and Father Coughlan from Our Lady's with about 20 people in attendance.



Rev Smith and Father Coughlan
(And Brian's bench!)



Onlookers and two of the flower beds



Wildlife in the flower beds

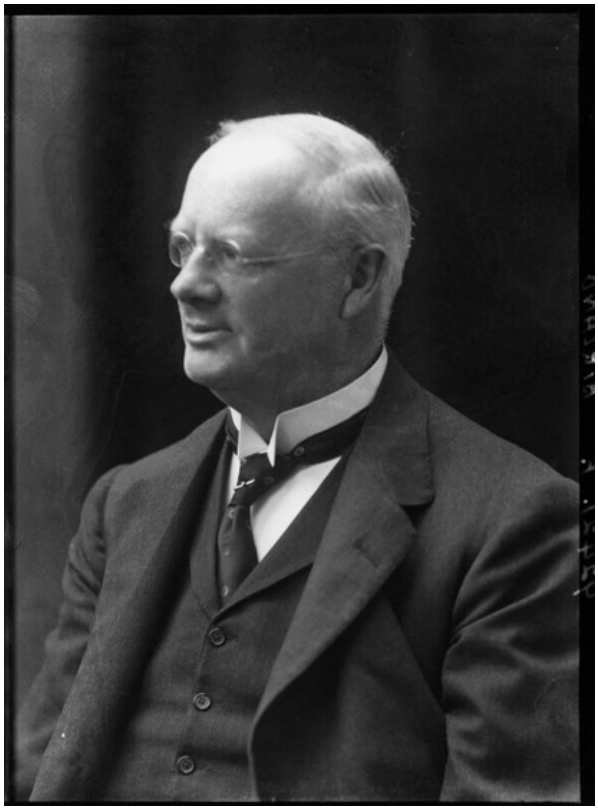


Bloomin' lovely!

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Summer2022

Alfred Bigland



Alfred Bigland.

The Friends have long hoped to restore some the memorial stones at Flaybrick. As this is expensive work we intend to only have headstones lifted and made safe. The work, especially with older graves, can be prohibitive and of course we have to spend the money we receive from our supporters wisely.

Recently, one of our members who lives abroad contacted our Chairman offering to make a one off donation for a specific piece of work.

As a result of this, we have recently had the grave of Alfred Bigland restored to its original condition after the cross was removed in the name of health and safety.

Bigland was a former Birkenhead MP and the founder of the legendary Bantam Brigades of WW1. A plaque commemorating him is in the main entrance of Birkenhead Town Hall.

Before and after photographs show how the memorial has been restored thanks to a generous Friend of Flaybrick.



Before and after restoration.



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Summer 2022

Storm damage



Walnut tree down.



Two trees fell away from the wall but the roots damaged the stonework.



Peter is quite small but that tree is massive!

During last winter's storms, seven trees of note were toppled at Flaybrick. There was also damage to other trees and walls were damaged by falling trees. All of the felled trees, except one, have now been removed from the site and repairs to the walls have recently been completed.

Friends of Flaybrick

Summer2022

Walking and talking.

We are almost at the end of our 2022 programme of guided walks and have been getting record numbers coming along to hear the stories about Flaybrick's 'residents'.
After 64 people attended April's walk, we had a new record turnout of 75 for our May walk which was held in lovely weather. For that walk we split into two groups for the first time and agreed that in the event of similar numbers in the future we will do the same.
The final walk of 2022 is on Saturday 24 September.
In addition to our normal programme we also offer private walks and presentations to groups. So far this year we have completed nine private walks and four presentations with several more planned before the end of the summer. We even have two presentations in the diary for 2023!



Some of the visitors to August's walk.

Final 2022 Guided Walk

The final guided walk of 2022 will take place on 24th September at 11am. Please meet at the chapels at 10.45 and wear suitable clothing.

Green Flag Award

We have been awarded the Green Flag for the third consecutive year. This is great testament to the work carried out by both the volunteers and the maintenance staff.

Wirral Heritage Open Days.

The chapels will be open to the public on 10th, 14th and 18th September, between 12 noon and 3pm. Guided tours, rather than specific walks will take place at 12.30pm and 1.30pm.
Friends of Flaybrick volunteers will be there to welcome you on the open days, answering as many questions as they can.

Remembrance Day

Our Remembrance service will be held on Armistice Day, Friday 11th November, rather than Remembrance Sunday. The service will be attended by Rev Smith from St Oswald's Church and Father Coughlan from Our Lady's Church. We also hope that Wirral Borough Council will be represented and some children from local schools will take part in the service. If you would like to attend please arrive about 10.30am.