Friends of Flaybrick

14 Nov 2023

The King's Award for Voluntary Service

The Friends of Flaybrick are proud to announce that we have been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS).

Within the voluntary sector, the award is the equivalent to an MBE and the highest award given to voluntary groups in the UK.

Our charity was established in 1993 by John Moffat, who today works as secretary of the group, with the intent of bringing Flaybrick back into the community. The members and volunteers have worked hard since then to achieve that aim, despite occasional setbacks, which only make us more determined to succeed.

Our Chair, Rob Dolphin said 'We are such a wonderful hard working group with a range of skills and abilities which suit the tasks we undertake and it is my great joy and honour to accept the award on behalf of our charity. This gives true recognition to all members and volunteers, both past and present.'

We would like in particular to express our thanks to Lord Field of Birkenhead who kindly sponsored the award bid, and also Councillor George Davies, former Mayor of Wirral and Elizabeth Davey, the prominent local historian, for their wonderful letters of endorsement.

The group would also like to take the opportunity to express our thanks to the people of Wirral and beyond who support us in all weathers and attend our guided walks, Services of Remembrance and open days in great numbers.

Further information can be found at https://kavs.dcms.gov.uk or Google 'KAVS'

Friends of Flaybrick

14 Nov 2023

Remembrance Service

The Friends of Flaybrick held its annual service of remembrance on Saturday 11 November at Flaybrick Memorial Gardens.
Among those who attended were Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside, Dr Nicholas Jedynakiewicz, the Mayor and Mayoress of Wirral, Councillor and Mrs J Williams, Birkenhead M.P. Mick Whitley and Officers and cadets from 400 (Birkenhead) RAF Air Cadet Squadron.
The service will was led by Reverend Keith Addenbrooke from St James's Church, Reverend Joe Smith from St Oswald's Church and Father Michael Coughlan from Our Lady's Church.
Children from local schools, Bidston Avenue and Bidston Village, gave some of the readings and Bidston Avenue pupils made poppies to decorate the Chapel grounds.
Around a 150 people attended the commemoration and donations made on the day amounted to £125.50. This will be forwarded to the Royal British Legion.



Childrens poppies



Deputy Lieutenant
Dr Jedynakiewicz



Deputy Lieutenant, Mayor of Wirral and 400 Squadron Air Cadets





Registered Charity
No. 1107843.

flaybrick.org

The King's Award for Voluntary Service

Green Flag Award

Friends of Flaybrick

14 Nov 2023

Green Flag Award 2023/24



The Mayor and Mayoress of Wirral and volunteers raise the Green Flag.

The Friends group were delighted to recently learn that we have again been awarded the Green Flag for 2023/24.
The Mayor and Mayoress of Wirral, Mr and Mrs J Williams visited Flaybrick on 19 October to raise the Green Flag.
The inspection had been made by a 'mystery shopper' adjudicator, so no additional work had been carried out prior to the visit. This proves that the site is being maintained to a high standard.
The glowing report is attached at the end of this newsletter so that you can see the kind comments made by the inspector. The only amber mark is for the condition of the paths which is beyond the control of the Friends. Work is expected to be carried out by Wirral Council on some of the paths in the near future.

Friends of Flaybrick

14 Nov 2023

Site Quality Evaluation (Mystery Shop)

Name of Site	FLAYBRICK MEMORIAL GARDENS	**Managing organisation**	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Weather Conditions	Dry and sunny		
Date of assessment	23/09/2023	**Time (from – to)**	4.30-5.30pm
Overall Result	**Green** – Meets the standard with no concerns raised **Amber** – Meets the standard but with some minor areas of concern **Red** – Does not meet the requirement with major issues identified		
Result: (✓)	**Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard?** Green ✓ Amber ☐ Red ☐		

Grading	Strengths and Recommendations
Each question is graded Green, Amber or Red NG (not graded) is used when the question can't be answered or is not applicable – for which an explanation is provided.	Strengths and recommendation are provided to support each grading. Photographs can be included throughout, or at the end of the report to support the feedback from the judge(s) in relation to both strengths and recommendations. Please refer to the Raising the Standard guidance manual here for further information on the criteria.

	NG	G	A	R	
A Welcoming Place					
1. Is the site welcoming?		✓			The site is welcoming, and the gates were open on the day I visited. There were several visitors, and the site had a peaceful feel to it.
2. Is the site easy to find?		✓			I had no problem finding the site and google maps took me to the correct postcode.
3. Is signage in good condition?		✓			The signage is in good condition throughout and there is plenty of interpretation to engage a visitor. The signage is impressive.
4. Is the site accessible to all users?			✓		Some of the paths are in a poor state and some resurfacing is required. The paths could be hazardous to some users.
Healthy, Safe and Secure					
5. Are facilities on site in good and safe condition?		✓			There are memorial benches, which are in good condition as well as other seating. The railings, magnificent boundary wall and gate entrance are all in good condition.
6. Did you feel safe during the visit?		✓			Yes, no issues at all. The site is open, and the good standard of tree maintenance ensures a feeling of safety.
7. Are dogs being controlled and the site free of dog fouling?		✓			The site was free of dog fouling and there were no dogs present on the day I visited.

Registered Charity No. 1107843.

flaybrick.org

The King's Award for Voluntary Service

Green Flag Award

Friends of Flaybrick

14 Nov 2023

Well Maintained and Clean					
8. Is litter, waste and recycling managed?	NG	G ✓	A	R	I didn't see any evidence of litter and the litter bin at the main entrance is in a good condition. There was evidence that the bin is being used and therefore in the correct place.
9. Is there a good standard of horticulture maintenance?	NG	G ✓	A	R	The grass was mown to a reasonable standard. There was evidence that there was maintenance taking place as hessian ton bags were filled with green waste.
0. Is there a good standard of arboriculture maintenance?	NG	G ✓	A	R	The arboretum and tree stock, including the mature tree stock appears to be in a good condition throughout the Gardens. The variety of specimens really are impressive, and I will make a return visit.
11. Are buildings and infrastructure such as walls, paths, steps and structures in good condition?	NG	G ✓	A		The chapels were not accessible on the day of the visit, but they appear to be maintained as well as they can considering the dereliction over several years.
12. Is equipment used by the public and staff in good condition?	NG	G ✓	A	R	There is plenty of seating and the dedicated memorial benches are in an excellent condition.
Environmental Management					
13. Is there evidence that the site is managed to have a positive impact on the environment?	NG	G ✓	A	R	The mature tree stock is vastly important to the site and to the surrounding area. The area where the site sits is urban and therefore plays an important role in the biodiversity and attracting subsequent wildlife to the area.
Landscape and Heritage					
14. Are heritage and/or landscape features in good condition?	NG	G ✓	A	R	The site is important for both visitors to the graves and for people who take an interest in the heritage and conservation of the site.
Community Involvement					
15. Is there evidence of community involvement and engagement?	NG	G ✓	A	R	People are obviously passionate about the site as there are lots of activities occurring, including walking tours. Well done to everyone involved in helping to look after and engage with others. The Friends Group have their own web page
16. Is user feedback positive?	NG	G ✓	A	R	Yes, most definitely. No concerns at all.
Marketing and Communication					
17. Is there evidence of marketing and promotion, including events? e.g. notice boards, in buildings, website & social media.	NG	G ✓	A	R	Yes, there is an enormous amount of marketing of the site, including display cases complete with an array of engaging posters and information. The site is marketed well both locally and on social media.
18. Is the correct year flag flying and certificate on display?	NG	G ✓	A	R	Yes.
Overall Result (✓)	**Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard?** Green ✓			Red	

Final comments:

FLAYBRICK MEMORIAL GARDENS was a real pleasure to visit, and the site has so much to offer in terms of conservation and heritage. The weather helped bring out the best in the site in terms of the arboretum on what felt like an autumnal day and beautiful stone in the chapel and surrounding boundary wall is beautiful. The only thing that I would say lets the site down is the poor state of the path network. However, I am sure when funding allows, this will be done, and it will enhance the site even further. Well done to everyone who is helping to maintain the site.

Registered Charity No. 1107843.
flaybrick.org
The King's Award for Voluntary Service
Green Flag Award