Friends of Flaybrick

July 2024



Lord Field of Birkenhead
1942 - 2024

As you will probably already know, our patron Lord Frank Field sadly died on 23 April 2024 aged 81. He was a great supporter of the Friends and will be sadly missed. A plaque to commemorate his life has been erected in front of a tree that he planted at Flaybrick.
A service of thanksgiving for his life and work was held on 17th June at Christ Church, Oxton. Our Chair Rob, and Secretary John, attended on behalf of the Friends group.

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Monument Replacement

In May this year the Friends, working in collaboration with WBC, funded a project to return vandalised monuments to their respective graves. The monuments are thought to have been vandalised over thirty years ago and have been face down on communal graves ever since. The Friends worked with a Council approved external contractor, and a 'JCB' was used to lift the three large crosses, an angel and a large granite slab from a communal grave area, back over a wall to their respective graves. It's estimated that the heaviest cross, belonging to Edmund Taylor (see below), weighs nearly a tonne. We are unable to afford the costs of a full reinstatement but they have been laid face up in their rightful place. It is hoped to hire the 'JCB' again to clear and level the communal graves and to reposition other heavy monuments and headstones around Flaybrick.

Edmund Taylor was instrumental in Bidston Hill being purchased and presented to the people of Birkenhead as a public area. You can read more at https://flaybrick.org/edmund-taylor/





Edmund Taylors Cross





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The Kings Award for Voluntary Service

On 19 April the Friends were presented with the Kings Award for Voluntary Service by the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside at the Walker Art Gallery and Museum. The event was also attended by the Mayor of Wirral and two Deputy Lord Lieutenants. The presentation was held in the midst of the Lowry exhibition and was followed by light refreshments.
In May, our Chair Rob and Secretary John represented the Friends at a Buckingham Palace garden party in recognition of the award.





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Storage and Accomodation



Clean and dry storage.



Wirral Council have provided the Friends group with a new (to us) shipping container for tool storage. Until now we have shared a container at Tam O'Shanter farm with the Bidston Hill group of volunteers. The new container is in the compound on Tollemache Road and is for our exclusive use. (Its difficult to get an exciting photo of a shipping container, but Brian did his best!)

Progress on the Friends getting our own accommodation is moving at a glacial pace, but we are hopeful that we will have it in place, in the compound, before the end of the summer.



Our old container was not used as it leaked, was rusty and was difficult to open. When it was lifted onto the wagon for removal, the floor collapsed.

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Guided Walks

The Friends popular guided walks have been continuing since May. The final dates for 2024 are 10 August, 28 September and a tree walk on 26 October. Meet at the Chapels at 10.45 and please wear appropriate clothing.

Remembrance Day

This years Remembrance Day ceremony will be held on Monday 11 November. A reminder will be sent out nearer the time. If you would like to attend please assemble at the Chapels from 10.30.

Green Flag

At the time of writing, Flaybrick Memorial Gardens have just been awarded a Green Flag for 2024 / 2025. We have not seen the report yet, but we hope to put a copy in the next newsletter.

Membership

Membership renewal is long overdue, so if it's slipped your mind, please consider continuing your support by renewing your membership. Details of how to renew your membership are on the next page.

Friends of Flaybrick Memorial Gardens

"Bringing Flaybrick back into the community"

Membership is easy! Please support our objectives and renew your subscription annually. There are no further obligations unless you wish to take a more active role.
The subscription is £7.00 per annum, (£3.50 if unwaged or retired) and due on 1st April each year.

MEMBERSHIP – Application/Renewal
There are now two ways to join the Friends of Flaybrick, either by post or by bank transfer.

To join using a cheque, please complete the membership form and post to:
Membership Secretary
C/O 9 Frankby Ave
Wallasey
CH44 5RP

Alternatively
To join by bank transfer, email membership@flaybrick.org giving the following details
your name
address
amount of membership
amount of any donation
please include the following line if you would like to use 'Gift aid'
'I am a UK taxpayer and I wish to 'GIFT AID' my Subscription/Donation.'
Then make your payment using your name as reference to:
The Friends of Flaybrick
30-15-52
03936808
Many thanks for joining Friends of Flaybrick and helping us to bring Flaybrick back into the community.