

Farewell John

With great sadness we report the passing of John Morris, a member of our Society since 2008. John was a keen and active member with a particular interest and concern for Commonwealth war graves.

John was very interested in local history for most of his life. He was involved with the Birkenhead History Society from the inception being the editor of the Newsletter from 1976-1979 and secretary of the Theatre Group. He was the Steward and Treasurer of Tam O'Shanter Cottage Trust and involved in Bidston Village Conservation Area Report in 1975.

Due to work commitments he had to give up his involvement although remained a member of these Societies. In recent years he has been involved again and was elected Chairman of Wirral History & Heritage Association last November, a Friend of Flaybrick and was involved in other local groups. He died in June after a short illness

Opposite: John Morris pictured n Flaybrick



Inside this issue:

Farewell to John Morris	1
Dates of Next Meetings	1
ASCE Vienna Conference	2
It's Our World Award	2
Flaybrick Walks 2012	2
Charles Frederick Feature	3

Dates of Next Meetings

The dates of the next meetings for the Friends of Flaybrick.

29th January 2012

21st April 2012 (AGM)

21st July 2012

20th October 2012

26th January 2012

All meetings take place at Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm at 10.30am. All welcome.

ASCE Vienna Conference

Our Secretary, John Moffat, together with A. Brannick, attended this event on 22-24th September. A total of 115 delegates attended from 16 countries and elections were held to decide the Presidency and the Steering Group for the next four years. Lydia Plibersek from Slovenia was elected President and John Moffat was elected back on to the Steering Group to represent the UK.

Significantly the Dublin cemetery of Glasnevin was present for the first time. This cemetery has undergone one of the largest cemetery restoration projects in Europe, complete with a high-tech visitor centre.

John Moffat got on well with the Directors and has been given an invitation to visit

Glasnevin. The Society could learn a great deal from Glasnevin that we could use to our benefit in the Bat and Tree Project.



John Moffat with the newly elected Steering Group

It's Our World Award

On 18th May at St George's Hall, Liverpool, an award ceremony took place attended by 260 guests. The event recognised the work of community groups and public and private sector organisations which are making Merseyside a greener place to live

Chairman Valerie Doodson attended the ceremony on behalf of John Moffat who was awarded the Merseyside Environmental Champion Award



Flaybrick Walks for 2012

Come and find out about all the fascinating history of Birkenhead and stories of the personalities that helped make it the way it is.

2012's Guided Walks run by Flaybrick volunteers will take place on the following Saturdays:

- 14th April** - Non-Conformist Area, Part I
- 12th May** - Church of England Area, Part 1
- 9th June** - Roman Catholic Area
- 14th July** - Non-Conformist Area, Part 2
- 11th August** - Church of England Area, Part 2
- 8th September** - Military Walk (Crimean War to WW2)

Meet at Tam O'Shanter Farm at 11am
(Flat shoes recommended and an umbrella and raincoat in case it rains)
Walks last approx. 2 hours

Please ring Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm on 0151 653 9332 to book your place.

Charles Frederick Morgan



This item marks the start of a new series in our newsletter which will feature the lesser-known of the incumbents within Flaybrick. Although he is not buried within Flaybrick Charles Frederick Morgan does have a memorial in NC1. Charles was unfortunate to be on the Titanic's maiden voyage as an Assistant Store Keeper and went down with the ship in 1912 .

Charles was born in 1868 to Nathaniel Morgan and Jane Elizabeth (Morgan). The census records show them initially at Frodsham Street, Tranmere in 1871. Then in 1881 they were at 1, Downham Road, Birkenhead and in 1881 had moved to 29 Milton Road, Birkenhead where his occupation was listed as Broker's Clerk. In 1901 the family had moved to 63 Carlton Road, Birkenhead but by then Charles was no longer at home.

The next record of him is in South Africa where we find he had joined the Western Province Mounted Rifles as a Quartermaster at the age of 33. His address is shown as 16 Florence Villas, Observatory, business address Cree Villa, Buitenkant, Capetown. His next of kin is listed as H. D. Morgan (brother), 63 Carlton Road, Birkenhead. He had enlisted on 8th February 1901 in Capetown and his registration number was 542. Mysteriously for some unknown reason he enlisted with the name Charles Frederick Bird. We are then unable to trace where and when he met his wife Margaret with whom he

had three children, Louisa and Nellie who were born in 1908 in Birkenhead and Cissie of whom we are unable to trace any details. Clearly though Margaret has taken the name Bird when she married Charles Morgan, although there is no record of the marriage.

The following is an extract from Encyclopaedia Titanica—Titanic Relief Fund Minutes, Liverpool Committee.

"C523 Bird (or Morgan)

In accordance with the resolution of this Committee of the 21st April 1914, the Hon. Secretary submitted Dr Oldershaw's report upon the case of Mrs Margaret Bird (Widow).

RESOLVED

That it be recommended that Mrs. Margaret Bird's allowance as included in this Committee's requisition for the quarter ending 30th Sept 1914, be made permanent and that as from 1st July, 1914 the Widow's allowance be paid at the rate of 12/- week, the balance of 7/6d per week together with arrears as from 1st January, 1913 of £40 10/- to be paid to the credit of a special account at the bank, in the widow's favour, to be used at some future date for her benefit, further that the sum of £5, out of the compassionate grant, be remitted to Dr J. Oldershaw at the end of July next, for the purpose of providing the children with proper clothing."

Next year marks the 100th Anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic and plans are now underway to stage a commemorative event in Liverpool.

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We are grateful to Chris Morris for her efforts in researching this item.