

# Launch of Great Trees Website

On 5th August 2010 the Friends of Flaybrick's Great Trees of Wirral Project was launched. Within the Flaybrick website ([www.flaybrick.com](http://www.flaybrick.com)), tree lovers can find a map of the Wirral, click on a tree icon and find images and text about trees in the Wirral that have significance for size, rarity, age or act as landmarks.

The trees have been brought stunningly to life thanks to the skills of professional photographer Marianthi Lainas. Each tree has associated text explaining its significance and the medicinal and therapeutic qualities of its extracts. The trees' measurements are also shown providing an accurate lasting record of Wirral's tree heritage.

The site has been launched using three trees, the stone pine on Grange Hill, West Kirby, Flaybrick's fern leafed beech and the mimosa at Eastham's Mimosa Tea Gardens. As funding is obtained the site will expand at a rate of one tree per month to eventually include about 35 trees, including several more from Flaybrick. A forum page will enable the public to discuss trees and any problems they have relating to them, or indeed to nominate trees for inclusion.

John Moffat, Secretary of Friends of Flaybrick, said that although he had already been providing slide presentations to the public on Wirral's trees for the last

five years and in total had been photographing trees on the Wirral for over ten years. Nevertheless it had been a difficult step to transfer this work onto the internet. Of three other similar sites in the UK, London, Epping and the Isle of Wight have all been completed on the back of major funding and considerable manpower. Gavin Rymill of the Wirral based web design company "Zarbi" has been key to overcoming these difficulties, placing our work on the web and giving us the finest site of its kind yet produced. The Wirral Society has donated £75 towards the project costs.



*The Stone Pine at the top of Grange Hill in West Kirby is one of the trees featured on the new website*

The project aims to develop understanding of Wirral's trees and give people a sense of ownership of their tree heritage, all of which will hopefully enhance the preservation and protection of the trees. We also hope that it will underline that some of Wirral's best trees are in Flaybrick and generate more visits to us to take part in either self-guided or the new guided tree walk being developed by Daphne Nock, leading we hope to Flaybrick becoming the place to see and learn about trees.

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## VIP's Visit

Maintaining his interest and support in Flaybrick, Matthew Crook, Wirral Council's Conservation Officer, recently organised a visit to Flaybrick for Merseyside's Conservation Officers.

They spent several hours in Flaybrick and were given a tour around by John Moffat made it clear that they were impressed by the site.

They were particularly impressed to see the grave of Edward Kemp which looked particularly well due to Brian Sinton's bedding plant work.



*John Moffat and Matthew Crook with Merseyside Conservation Officers*

## MBE for Society Member

On 23rd April 2010 member Angus Tilston was awarded the MBE for services to historic film-making. The investiture took place at Buckingham Palace and Angus was accompanied by his wife Ena and his daughter Nicola. Angus has been a member of our Society for many years and was responsible for the production of our successful DVD. You may be interested to know that Angus has increased the total of honorary medals within our Society to a total of five, two OBEs, two MBEs and one BEM.



*Angus Tilston receives his MBE from Prince Charles*

## An Unexpected Find

Member Brian Sinton who works very hard in Flaybrick on clearance work, litter picking and assisting the MI team, was surprised to find a wedding ring lying on a grave in Flaybrick. He handed the ring in to the police station but as it was not claimed, he became the new owner of this valuable item which he was able to sell for £60. Very generously he has donated £30 to our Society and £30 to the Friends of Bidston.

### Flaybrick Walks 2010

The next guided walk is a new Military Walk and will take place on:

#### **Saturday 11th September**

Military Walk taking in Military and War related graves

**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.