

# Climbing the tree trail

THE FINDINGS of the Island's new Histree Trail project officer will help create walking and cycling trails across the IW.

Tina Williamson is working on a two-year project with the IW Council's parks and countryside team to identify and record the Island's native trees and link their growth to IW heritage.

Ms Williamson said: "It is important the project develops with the help and support from IW people, this will identify the Island's magnificent trees and provide interesting heritage tales, fact or fiction, linked to a tree or group of trees."

Following research, the project has been successful in securing a £47,000 Heritage

By Clare Wall

Lottery Fund grant. The Island has 23 species of native trees like oak, ash and elm with hundreds of other introduced species like horse chestnut and the ornamental monkey puzzle tree.

The oldest tree on the Island is an English oak called Old Stumpy, which can be found at Nunwell. It has a girth of nearly six metres and is thought to be around 350 years old.

Cllr Ian Ward, cabinet member for environment and transport, said: "This will improve our knowledge of our trees and is a wonderful opportunity to create an interesting and useful guide for walkers, cyclists and visitors to the Island."



IW Economic Partnership leader and representative Bridget Welling, left, and Histree Trail Project Officer Tina Williamson next to one of the largest English oak trees at the Medina Arboretum.

CONTRIBUTED

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