

The Friends of Hilbre Newsletter



Hilbre is one of three tidal islands in the Dee Estuary. The Friends of Hilbre aim to help preserve all aspects of this Local Nature Reserve.

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Attachments: - Volunteer Tasks for 2017



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A New Year — New Year's Resolutions!

Happy New Year to all of our members. Now is the time to put those New Year's resolutions in place!

Do you want to get fit? Meet new friends? Try new activities? Acquire new skills? Get more fresh air? Give something back to the community? Help to preserve the Hilbre Island's habitat (a Site of Special Scientific Interest)? For all this and much more — why not join our volunteers in some of our activities?



If you have a particular skill that you think could help us, please get in touch. For all activities, training is provided, so don't worry if you do not have any previous experience.

We have regular tasks on the islands which include walling, painting, removing invasive species e.g. ragwort & bracken, litter pick, repairing gates and fences, maintaining the historic buildings and many other activities. There are weekend and weekday tasks, most of which take place over a low tide, so that you can walk out and leave at times that are convenient to you. We have a couple of 'over the high tide' tasks, including the opportunity for an overnight stay.

The Seal Watch Group is going strong; this is where we give members of the public information about the seals and the opportunity to see them via our telescope or binoculars. Full training is available, as well as a 'script' (so you are not expected to be an expert!). We find that this is a popular event and people are always very interested in the seals.

At the Open Days (which coincide with the Seal Watch days) we invite people inside the Telegraph office, to see displays of our work and to chat to volunteers; we also offer short tours of Hilbre. Last year we started providing light refreshments, which were greatly appreciated, as well as being a very good way of raising money for FoH.

If you have an interest in fundraising, you could help us to raise money for special projects. Last year we contributed toward the restoration of the Slate Shed, the repair of the doors to the Buoymaster's store etc. With your help, we could do so much more.

All details of all our events are in the attached task list. So what's stopping you? Pick up your phone and volunteer. What could be better than being in the beautiful environment of Hilbre and feeling that you are doing something worthwhile?

Sad News

In November last year our Treasurer, Michael Spencer died unexpectedly after a rather long illness from which he seemed to be rallying. Michael was a charming and amusing man who brought a lifetime's experience in high finance to our tiny organisation. With his skills and knowledge he took the task of balancing our books in his stride. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

He will be a hard act to follow and it will be difficult to find anyone to replace him but if one of our members feels able to cope with our relatively simple financial dealings please get in touch with Allen Burton on 648 7115.



Open Days 2017 - Appeal

For the first time last year we decided to serve refreshments on Open Days which proved to be very successful and we managed to raise over £700.00. We were also very lucky with the weather on each occasion. They were very well attended by members of the Public, who were very appreciative of the chance to have 'a coffee and a biscuit' and a chat, and /or to go on a short tour of Hilbre.

The dates of the scheduled Open Days for the coming year are attached to this newsletter. It would be helpful if a few more volunteers could commit themselves to helping on any of these days. It's not a difficult task and can be interesting talking to the public.

If you are interested in helping, can you please contact me - Barbara Burton on 0151 648 7115 or by e-mail barbburton0816@gmail.com

Promoting Hilbre

We are always striving to promote Hilbre Island and the work of FoH. Some of our members give up their own time to give talks to interested groups. This also helps to raise money for our funds. Recently our Chairman, Allen Burton was interviewed by Vintage Radio, on the 19th January.

Contributions and Questions

We regularly ask if any of our members would like to contribute to our newsletter, but we very rarely get sent anything. This is a real shame because I am sure many of you have very fond memories of times spent on Hilbre. You do not have to write a 'masterpiece' a paragraph or two will do (or a whole page if you are feeling particularly inspired). Alternatively do you have a favourite picture that you would like to share? Or, do you have any **questions** that you would like the Committee to answer?



Please e-mail me, putting FoH Newsletter in the 'subject' (see my address on page 1)

Other News

Archaeological Dig. The results of last year's dig are almost complete and the report is currently in draft form. We hope to update you in the next newsletter.

Slate Shed. Now that the Slate Shed has been restored, it can be used by the public to shelter inside in inclement weather. The next stage is to look at providing some all-weather interpretive panels inside it. Other options that are under discussion are having linked notice boards elsewhere e.g at the beginning of the south slip-way, the Telegraph Station, the Day Centre, North End etc. However these are only just ideas at present and we will keep you informed re any developments.