

The Friends of Hilbre Newsletter



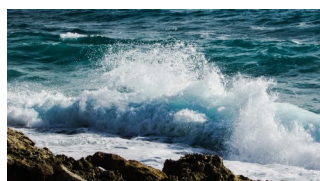
Hilbre is one of three tidal islands in the Dee Estuary. The Friends of Hilbre aim to help preserve all aspects of this Local Nature Reserve.

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- FoH Activities and Task Lists 2019



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Season's Greetings To All Our Members

New Task Lists: New Year's Resolutions!

We are publishing our task lists for 2019 (see attachment) as early as possible to help you with your New Year's Resolutions to lead a more healthy and active lifestyle!!

(1) The **Weekend** and **Weekday Tasks** are generally light physical tasks and include activities such as painting, weeding, bracken pulling, minor repairs to buildings, litter picking, maintaining sea defences etc. No prior knowledge or experience is necessary and on-the-job training is available. These tasks will appeal to those who enjoy practical activities and would like to learn new skills. n.b the **Weekday Tasks** take place all year round including December, January and February.

Particularly if you are new to volunteering, please ring the Task Organiser before you attend, so that we can look out for you and introduce you to the other FoH members.

(2) **Seal Watch** and **Open Days** take place on the same days. We also **sell light refreshments**, when we have sufficient volunteers. In 2019 we will be opening the **Buoymaster's Museum** to the public. These activities will appeal to those who will enjoy interacting with visitors to Hilbre and giving them information about the islands – training and 'crib sheets' are available. They are also an opportunity to help to raise funds for FoH activities by sales and donations.

Seal Watch involves letting visitors use the telescope to get a close-up view of the Seals and information is given about their lives and habits. During the Open Day, the Telegraph Station is opened up and there are displays of information about Hilbre and the work of FoH.

It is important to let the organisers know if you are going to attend these activities because we will only be able to sell light refreshments and open up the Buoymaster's Museum IF we have sufficient volunteers on the day.

So what are you waiting for??? Set those New Year's Resolutions now! Help us to safeguard Hilbre now and for future generations to enjoy.



Hilbre Poem:

Many thanks to John Chalder-Royle who wrote the following poem after his visit to Hilbre on 18th October, this year. His walk took place over one of the few high tides of the year, when it is possible to walk out to Hilbre over dry sand.

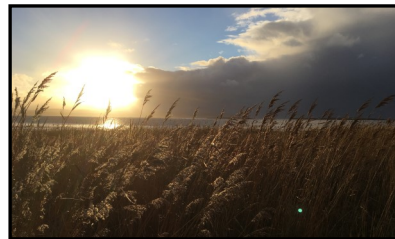
'Another Dry Walk to Hilbre'

The sun is out, the sea is calm,
On Hilbre again, with no alarm.
Here I am looking out to Wales,
And seals can be heard, telling their tales.
Another dry walk out, I'm happy to say,
With no water to get in my way.

My shadow is long in the October sun,
All is well and I'm having fun.
With this slow tide ebbing away,
It's clear of the Island, yes all day.
Now there's no rush back for me,
As a dry walk is guaranteed you see.

So I'll stay a while longer here,
Walk around a bit with no fear.
The time will come for me to go,
Before the sun gets quite low.
I'll be back on Hilbre again and again,
As this is where peace will remain and remain.

John Chalder-Royle, October 2018.



Hilbre Island 1927:



James Lloyd has shared with us some of his family pictures from Hilbre 1927.

They show his Grandmother Charlotte Thomas and Grandfather Arthur Lloyd before they were married and his Great grandmother Ester & Son William. Also Jack Jones, Ester Thomas, William Thomas, Captain Jones, Charlotte Thomas, Sarah Lloyd (sister to Arthur) & Arthur Lloyd, Lizzie Walthew & Hilda Pemberton.

Do you have any pictures, or stories about the Hilbre Islands that you would like to share with us? Please send any contributions to the newsletter to:

The Editor, FOH Newsletter, 26, Woodside Road, Irby.
CH61 4UL, or email to nickynor16@sky.com (please name file 'FoH article').

Ranger's Report:



Work has continued on the Buoymaster's Museum, but we need a bit more time for preparation of the interpretive materials and some final touches to the museum. We can then work out a plan for 2019, when we hope to open it up to the public on the Seal Watch and Open Days. Comments and opinions on this project from FoH are always welcome.

The Sunset walks and RSPB events were all well attended and appreciated by participants. The mid-week tasks have gone really well with much being achieved on the island with paint brushes, mowers and spades!

As the nights draw in I will have more office time to complete the virtual tour of the islands and the Dong energy signage project.

Matt Thomas