



## Poetry & Short Prose Competition

**1st prize:** A beautiful and poignant poem from **Frank Tyson**, entitled 'Joyce'

**2nd prize:** **John Chalder-Royle** for his lovely poem describing a 'low/high water' trip to Hilbre. (n.b. occasionally, when the high tide is at a very low level, it is possible to walk out to Hilbre over a high tide and not get your feet wet! However, to ensure your safety, it is always best to take expert advice before attempting this.)

Thanks to everyone for sending me your contributions, I really enjoyed reading them and I must include a special mention for **Phil Mulvaney** and **Sarah Loftus & Family** for their evocative poems. If anyone else feels inspired to write something for the newsletter, we would love to hear from you -please send your submissions to [nickynor16@sky.com](mailto:nickynor16@sky.com) and title your e-mail 'FoH Newsletter'.

**Newsletter Editor**

### Joyce

A scarlet sunset with flaming skies  
I once saw reflected within blue eyes  
A gentle breeze playing through golden locks  
Her bare feet standing upon Hilbre's ancient rocks  
Grey seal watching as our tide slipped away  
Together, alone, sharing the day.  
  
Two lovers kissed while holding hands  
Surrounded by seemingly endless sands  
Alone, yet 'no!' For how many gone before  
Still cherish a like memory of this island's sacred shore?  
Now she is gone from me but the sunsets remain  
To remind me of her until we meet again.

**Frank Tyson**

### A Walk to Hilbre

At West Kirby I do arrive  
Now over to Hilbre, I'm alive.

Time is three or maybe four  
The sun is out, want no more

The sand is dry all the way  
This high tide will make my day

Across the sand I do go  
Is it wet? Answer no

High tide between six and seven  
This is when I'm in heaven

Now on Hilbre having tea  
Is anyone there? No just me

Here I'll stay, an hour or two  
Looking around, like I do

Distant seals make their sound  
Soon I will be homeward bound

Height in feet is twenty two  
Of this tide, no wet shoe

Across the sand I do go  
Little Eye closer, what a show

It's now high tide on this sand  
It's still dry, bone dry land

The sun now sinks in the west  
The day is over, the very best

Down the road for the train  
Oh! There's a cloud, looks like rain.

**John Chalder-Royle**

Preciously endured  
Remote, rugged, active, proud  
Friends of Hilbre Isle

**Phil Mulvaney**



Picture by kind permission of  
Hilbre Island.net



Rocks, Caves and Sand  
Flowers, Heather and Hides  
Strolling along between the Tides  
Hilbre do I spy.

**Sarah Loftus & Family**



## Ranger's Report:

It has been a busy time on and off the island.

Preparations are being made for the appointment of Coastal Wardens from Liverpool John Moores University to stay on the island during the summer. They will continue the works started by the students last summer, recording the flora and fauna on the islands.

Plans are also afoot for the repair of the Slate Shed so it can be used as a wet weather shelter for visitors with no access to the Day Room. Quotes are being sought from local builders and when the building is made safe we will look at involving the FoH in the production of interpretative materials to display in it.

The mid-week task days have been successful in recent months, being blessed with fine weather and keen volunteers. We have been working with members of HIBO on the removal of invasive species of plants from the vacant plot next to the Observatory.

A redundant fence, near the radar mast is being removed.

We may start work on the inside of the Buoymaster's Stores to make the accommodation more attractive. This will involve the removal of damaged cladding and plasterboard.

**Matt Thomas**



## Tea on Hilbre:

We served refreshments on our first Open Day of the year; it was a success and much appreciated by members of the public. We plan to repeat it on further Open Days, if we have enough volunteers.



## Honorary Lifetime Membership:

Ex Senior Ranger of Hilbre Jo Hanik was given lifetime membership of the Friends of Hilbre in recognition of his past support and work on our behalf.

## FoH Membership:



We have 161 members, including life members and honorary life members.

We thank all our members for their continuing support and are always happy to welcome new members. If you would like to join in any of our activities see page 1 for contact details.

## Photos of Wirral and Hilbre:

If you are on Facebook you may be able to access a group which collects photos of Wirral and of the Hilbre Islands. This group currently has 15,600 members

**Instructions:** Sign onto your Facebook page. In the search engine type 'Wirral in Old Photographs', this takes you to the 'group page'.

As it is a closed group, you have to click on the 'request' link—this will change to show 'pending'. The Group Leaders will consider your application and you will be notified when accepted. You will then be free to look at all the pictures and posts.

