



Has anyone watched a documentary called 'Our Tiny Islands' on Channel 4? This series of programmes looks at people who have associations with many of the miniscule British islands. In past series it has highlighted islands like Bardsey and Gigha and many other scraps of land where birds and wildflowers outnumber humans by a thousand to one. We were approached by Gary Wright the series editor to ask if we could help in filming the programme on Hilbre. It was subsequently decided to focus the programme on the work of the Friends and the development of the Buoy Master's area occupied by the British Art and Design Association.

In September, Dave Gregson and a group of volunteers were filmed walking out and working on the island. If all goes to plan then the programme will be broadcast sometime next year!



TIM'S LANDROVER

It would be interesting to find out how many thousands of miles have been walked by volunteers travelling out to Hilbre over the years. Since the acquisition of the historic buildings there has been an even greater need to visit the island, often transporting material needed for necessary tasks. In the past we have been relying on the Wirral Ranger service and the generous offers of Allan Conlin from HiBO to help us in these matters. However, in October Tim Baldock, one of our many mid-week taskers has purchased a Land rover that he is more than willing to use to transport volunteers out to the island. The Friends would like to thank Tim for this wonderful gesture.

THE TELEGRAPH STATION



The wind vane now sits proudly back on the top of the Telegraph Station thanks to the efforts of Tony Lamberton who has painstakingly restored and fitted the device to the building.

Volunteers have also worked relentlessly re-painting the window on the station and it is hoped that the £16 000 raised from the Burbo Bank Extension Scheme will enable us to replace the wooden fascia and guttering in the new year.



Left: The compass rose is now attached to the ceiling.



Above: It's not long before the wildlife start to make use of the wind vane.

Above: Tony and friends attach wind vane to roof of Telegraph station.



Many hours have been spent by volunteers in the last year giving the telegraph window me coats of paint

HILBRE MEMORIES

In the past year we have been working with Christine Longworth to have her book about the Archaeology and History of Hilbre published. The Friends would like to thank anyone who has contributed by supplying photographs that could be used in the book. Particular thanks go to HiBo, the Cox family and The Canoe Club. We have two new members of the friends, namely Matt Reed and Alan Summers who are working on the format of the book and it is expected that the book will be available in the new year.

HILBRE ARCHIVES

Over the years we have accumulated many articles about Hilbre. It has been decided to set up a Hilbre section in the Wirral Archive Library so that materials about the Friends and the island can be preserved for future generations.

Some photos from old newspaper clippings are shown that you might be interested in seeing.



VICKY SEAGAR

Vicky was the first female warden to be appointed to Hilbre in 1989. At the time the wardens were still living on the island.



Dr LEWIS MCAFEE

Dr Lewis McAfee (seen above) was resident on Hilbre in 1965 when he entertained the Duke of Edinburgh.



ANN CLEEVES

Ann lived with her Husband Tim on Hilbre in the seventies. She gave birth to her first daughter Sarah whilst living on the island.

THE FRIENDS IN THE COMMUNITY



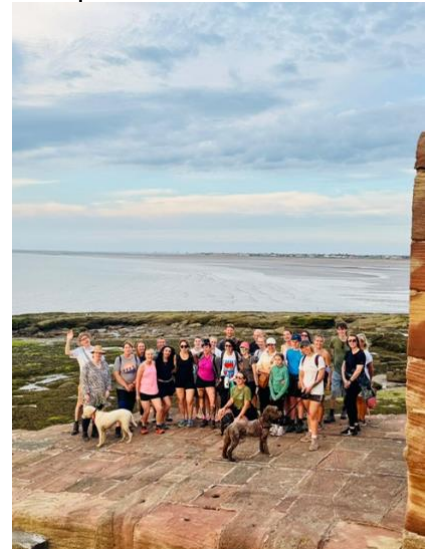
The Friends have been active on and off the island in the last year supporting groups that want to use the facilities and giving talks to people who might no longer be able to access Hilbre. David Gregson (left) is seen with a resident of the Heather Mount Care Home in Heswall.

Members of the Astronomical Society make good use of the Day Room.

Images taken on the night



Members of the Tide and Trail Group on their visit to Hilbre.



Hilbre at Night
Photograph courtesy of
Matt Thomas