



Newsletter Produced by D.J Gregson  
Chair The Friends of Hilbre

## Hilbre Community Land Trust Ltd sign a three year lease to take control of historic buildings on Hilbre.

After four years of hard work and negotiations with Wirral Borough Council, a three-year lease for the historic building complex has been signed. Peter Hinton and Dave Gregson are seen photographed with Chris Williams (Hilbre Bird Observatory) and Dominic Wilkinson and Terry Duffy from the British Art and Design Association.

The trust will now concentrate on obtaining planning permission for the island's listed buildings. This will enable a thirty-year lease to be obtained.

The Friends of Hilbre would like to thank Dominic Wilkinson for his determination to get this over the line. The hard work now continues to restore these buildings to a higher standard that will be of a great benefit to the local community.

### Members Walk Out to Hilbre Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.

Join Julie Forshaw for a walk out to Hilbre. See the work that has been carried out on the Day Room.

Discuss how you can help.

Meet at Marina slipway at 10.00am.

Book your place by emailing:

Julie at: [newsletter.foh@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.foh@gmail.com)



January 2025: Snow on the Dee!  
Incredible snow formations at Marina Lake.

## The Friends of Hilbre Mid-Week Task Days: Christmas Yule Log

11th December 2024

Volunteers: Dave, Julie, Chris, Sue, Ian, Mal, Andy, Peter, Greg, Graeme, Jim, Dick, Emma  
Ranger: Jo Boots

There was a good turnout for the last task day of 2024: 13 volunteers plus the Ranger. As usual we met on the slipway and made our way across the sands to Hilbre. The sky was leaden and yet in the gloomy atmosphere there was a special wintery beauty. There were so many birds huddled on the mudflats and shoreline. The kestrel hovered overhead.

We arrived at the Day Room which we are upgrading into a special space. There was much to do. Andy, Greg and Dave set about removing the very old boiler, pipes and radiator stands. Peter prepped the wall for painting by taking off old plaster and paint. In the kitchen Graeme did a fantastic job of sanding the huge wooden storage chest and achieved an impressive smooth finish ready for oiling. Outside Jo, Sue and Chris did battle with the dead bracken and undergrowth behind the shed. They found a toad hidden in the foliage. They cleared 4 huge bags ready to be taken off the island. Jim also did undergrowth clearance of brambles near the buoy master's store. Dick repaired fences and replaced posts as needed. Julie and Emma were gofers. Julie and Chris made tea and coffee for us workers. There was a festive treat of mince pies which we had with our well-deserved lunch. After this good day's work, we walked back to West Kirby and off to the pub!

**Thanks to Emma Blake  
for Blog and Photos.**



### Tasks for 2025:

- Painting Interior of Day Room.
- Installing new kitchen in Day Room.
- Painting the Day Room wall in adjacent Telegraph Garden.
- Install new gutters and water harvesting system.
- Removal of invasive plant species.
- Butterfly transect recording starts again in March.
- Join Tony Lamberton's task group to restore the Telegraph Station.

Join us at the Heritage Fair in March!

**HELP US TO RESTORE HILBRE.**