



Welcome FILB Volunteers, Members, Friends and Supporters

What's been happening?

This summer has been really busy for FILB, more shouts than in any other summer as far back as we can remember. Two of the launches were in the dead of night, one immediately after the other, so were quite challenging. We even rescued an international show jumping star from the area around the Needles when the Jet ski she was riding hit a rock and was taking on water, a second had mechanical problems.

We now have our replacement tractor -Stan, named after one of our benefactors Stan Crawford, part of his generous bequest paid for the beast. It is much more powerful than the old skidsteer and helps us launch and recover more easily at low tide states. We have installed a temporary bespoke container on the end of our plot to house Stan and the Jet Ski, freeing up a little space in the boathouse. Our brilliant principal coxswain brought his other skills to the fore and with help from other team members built a concrete ramp system to get from the container onto the hardstanding!

We have of course continued our fundraising efforts throughout the year and had successful days at various events including the Chale show and recently a Day at The Bay music day, where the boathouse became a very noisy venue for various musicians including the Wight Hot Pipes! Also of course our own open days -even though we had to cancel the August event because of lashing rain and 50mph winds We have gained a few new crew members this year and are now busy with their training programme.

Thank You!!

If you want to find out more about recent events check out our web site and Facebook pages,

Thank you all for your continued support!!!

Upcoming Events

The shop will be open as often as we can staff it until the end of October but should be open for the October half term and for the grotto on 8th December. It will reopen again full time on Good Friday next year.

Thank you all for your custom and support this year.

On Saturday 8th Dec Santa will again be visiting the FREE grotto his elves set up in the boathouse from 12-3.30. Free gift for the children and a free mince pies for all. Last year over 100 children came and spoke to Santa in the 3.5 hours and ate a lot of mince pies!!- a record -he was exhausted!! Let's make it even better this year. Yes -it is free – but of course any donations for the FILB will be gratefully received. Hopefully Leira the snow pony will be visiting again as well. We also will have our FILB Driftwood tree at the Brighstone tree festival. It's in St Marys church this time.

The Future

We still need to raise large sums of money to keep the operation going successfully . The FILB currently have bids in to various bodies for grants totalling nearly £40k for replacement equipment and training costs -we should hear soon if we have been successful - we are keeping our fingers crossed.

Any donations, both large or small, are always very gratefully received. Don't forget that if you are feeling benevolent you can always donate online or on your phone via the links on our web site. Details of links are at the bottom of this letter.

