

Maritime Rescue Institute
Coastal Notes – 17 May 2006

It was a miserable day in Edinburgh for the BUPA Great Edinburgh Run, yet more than 8,000 people turned up ready to do their stuff. They had broken in the new trainers, put in all the training – well, most of them had! - paid their entry fees, got the sponsorship, now it was up to them to get round the course. The Mound and Arthur's Seat came as a bit of a shock to those who didn't know Edinburgh, especially Arthur's Seat coming near the end of the 10k. As the run went on the weather improved; there were no more of the heavy downpours that had marred the early part of the morning, and in fact it ended up with good running conditions – cool and damp.

Our 13 runners, reduced from 14 by injury, acquitted themselves really well. Craig, from Edinburgh came in at number 301 with a time of 42.21; he was pleased with this time, as well he might, but felt that his training had been erratic due to work commitments, so wasn't as fast as he might have been. He's up for doing it again next year! Any other volunteers? All MRI's runners completed the run in good time, raising around £1,600, which will go towards the upkeep of the lifeboats. Thanks to all who ran and to their sponsors.

The run isn't the only fund raising effort coming along. Plans are well in hand for the Harbour Festival on July 23rd. There isn't a suitable date in August, because of the way the tides fall, so for the first time the Harbour Festival will move to July. We have a number of new attractions this year, alongside established favourites. Top of the bill will be a squad of Guizer Jarls from Shetland, dressed in their full Viking gear as they were for the Up Helly Aa celebrations at the end of January. They are sure to make a memorable contribution to the day. Also for the first time will be a visit by an old fife fishing boat 'White Wing' coming up from the Scottish Fisheries Museum.

Although it will be hard to miss the Vikings in all their striking gear, it will be equally hard to miss a third newcomer – a full size model of a blue whale! Continuing with the animal theme, the Newfoundland dogs will be putting in another appearance as will the Trossachs Search and Rescue dogs. All in all, we aim to put on a good family day out, with stalls, entertainment, demonstrations and food. Burgers, teas and Arbroath smokies are already on the menu.

We need to appeal to the good people of Stonehaven to help us accommodate the Vikings. There will be 8 adult guizers, and 4 juniors along with a couple of wives and siblings. If anyone were prepared to offer a couple of night's hospitality we would be very grateful. They plan to arrive on the morning of Saturday 22nd and sail back to Shetland on Monday, 24th July. Please contact us on the number below if you think you can help. Any other offer of help on the day would also be very welcome.

Visit www.maritime-rescue-institute.org to find out more about us.

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For further information or to get involved with MRI as a volunteer, please contact 01569 765768 or email hamish.mcdonald@btconnect.com.