

Solway Coast Discovery Centre



Bill Jefferson watches Margaret Snaith cutting the ribbon to open the new exhibition

Report by: Brian Irving

On Friday 23rd May the newly refurbished Discovery Centre was officially launched by Councillors Margaret Snaith and Bill Jefferson accompanied by the management committee.

Both Margaret and Bill played a major part in securing the £103,000 of grant aid to carry out the rejuvenation. Funding was secured through the North Allerdale Partnership, Solway Coast AONB Sustainable Development Fund and Allerdale Borough Council.

The Centre now has an Education Suite, a new Exhibition about the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a new art gallery featuring the work of local artists and two exhibitions celebrating the Silloth railway and the airfield.

The Discovery Centre has integrated all of the new spaces and exhibitions into a

seamless experience for both locals and visitors and it all centres around the Tourist Information Centre which sits at the heart of things.

Solway Coast manager Brian Irving said: "This new approach is the culmination of many years of work and monitoring where we have measured the strengths and weaknesses

of the Centre and have sought to strengthen what it offers the public, visitors, schools and indeed anyone wishing to familiarise themselves with our beautiful area. Entry to the Centre is free to see the shop, gallery and Silloth exhibitions and a small charge is made to visitors wishing to see the Solway Coast exhibition."



Above: The WI maintained garden at the entrance
Below: Discovery Centre Gift Shop



College Art Exhibition



New York City landscape by Ruth Hope

Report by: Emma Addyman

Students at Solway Community Technology College pulled out all the stops at their annual Art & Design Show.

Every year, the College throws its doors open to give visitors the chance to see the diverse range of work produced by Year 11 students studying GCSE Art & Design.

One of this year's highlights was by Silloth resident, Ruth Hope, aged 16. The New York City landscape of block colours was the culmination of eight week's of hard work including a final ten hour exam. Based on the theme 'Barriers', the work was a colourful creation!

She said: "I'm really pleased with the final outcome. It's taken a lot of effort and time but it's been worth it. Next year, I'm studying a BTEC National Diploma in Art and Design at Carlisle Institute of the Arts. My GCSE Art has been good preparation for next year".

Another particularly colourful piece by Gemma Blackburn, showed layers of bright bold colours used to

create a moving image. Gemma's exhibition was a colourful array of detailed images showing a fluent ability in Art.

In total, 18 students exhibited their work at the Art & Design Show, with a broad range of techniques, influences and outcomes on display.

Head of Art & Design, Emma Addyman, said: "The Art & Design Show was the ultimate showcase of our students' work. I am really pleased with the effort each student has put into their exhibition this year. It was a great chance for families and friends to see what they have achieved during their studies."

