

Cross Solway Swimmer makes Donation to Silloth RNLI

Following his World Record Cross Solway Swim Derek Griffiths and his wife Sharon returned to Silloth to present the RNLI members who accompanied him on the crossing with the sponsorship his swim had raised.

Derek presented a cheque for £284 to Eddie Studholme on behalf of Silloth RNLI.

In the last issue of the Buzz we stated that this was the first officially recorded crossing of the Solway by an unassisted swimmer. We now know that this is not true. A Mr John Humphrey from Preston swam from Newbie, near Annan, to Silloth in September 1931 in a time of 3 hours 23 minutes. So Derek's swim in 3 hours 14 minutes 9.51 seconds is still a World Record.

We are indebted to local sisters Heather and Olive Wood for providing the evidence of the 1931 swim.

They kindly supplied the Buzz with a letter detailing the event which we are pleased to reproduce here.



L-R: Sue Kent, David Eland, Cross Solway Swimmer Derek Griffiths, RNLI Station Manager Eddie Studholme and Sharon Griffiths

Point View
Silloth
9/9/31
Dear Everybody
Many thanks for postcards, we have had the swimmer here since Thursday a John Humphrey from Preston he was a fine big fellow, he was going to try on Friday but it was too rough for him so he decided to have a go on Monday

morning from Annan to Silloth. Capt Iddron and a few more went with him in the morning to Annan arriving there about seven.

He entered the water at Newbie at 8.24 arrived here 11.47. Capt said there was about 3000 waiting, the sea wall was packed some of the people made a collection for

him. I think he got £7- 2/6d, Holmes sent him a cheque for £2, I've had no time to advertise the event as he only arrived with the six train and said he would swim in the morning. I got it put on the pictures and Mason gave it out off stage but it was quite a surprise to see all the people. I think all the old people of Silloth

Sharron's Bee's
by
Ella Feltham
from
Bouncing Babies
Childminder



Buzz By
by
Kyi Clymo
from
Silloth Primary
School

were there. The lady swimmer turned up on Thursday to make arrangements, she told me if the man got across she would not try it, so I expect it's off now. It has caused quite a talk, most of the people followed him along from Skinburness the water was so clear they could see his body and every stroke he made.

He was telling me that he had not had such a cold swim before. Kelly's family arrived this morning five of them. The swim I think is in every paper this morning so it is quite a good advert for Silloth. Weather is very fine but the visitors are getting thin. Fondest love to all.

Albert

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