

## Buzzin' Letters

Dear Buzz,

I would like to respond to Lawrence Marshall's letter concerning differing tidal height predictions, as printed in your April edition (No. 16) of the Solway Buzz.

Firstly, both the BBC and Associated British Ports obtain their basic tidal information for the Silloth area from the Admiralty Hydrographic Office at Taunton in Somerset. These complex predictions of tidal time and height are published annually in "Admiralty Tide Tables".

Tidal times in the British Isles are always given as GMT, so one hour needs to be added to the published time during British Summer Time. Tidal heights are given in metres above "Chart Datum". This is the datum, or base line, of soundings shown on the latest edition of the largest scale Admiralty chart for the area and is approximately the level of the lowest recorded low water in that area.

It's what happens next that makes the difference.

The BBC do nothing to this raw information and simply broadcast the figures that they are given. At the Port of Silloth, in common with most other tidal ports, we have to apply a correction to the basic tidal heights given by the Admiralty so that they become of some practical use to local mariners using the docks.

All tidal heights modified and reproduced by ABP Silloth refer to a different datum, i.e. that of the New Dock sill, over which all commercial shipping has to float to enter that dock. In his letter to you, Lawrence Marshall astutely noticed a difference of 1.5 to 2.0 metres between the BBC and ABP Silloth predictions. In fact the height of New Dock sill is exactly 1.8 metres above Chart Datum, therefore at the port we subtract that figure from the basic Admiralty predictions to give us a predicted height, (depth of water), over the dock sill, which are the tidal heights referred to within our own tide-tables.

Your readers might also like to know that actual tidal heights may differ considerably from predictions, especially in shallow estuarial waters such as the Solway Firth. They are influenced by both atmospheric pressure and the wind. For example, If we are in an area of low pressure then tidal heights are likely to rise above prediction. Conversely, in a high pressure system the tides may not even reach prediction. Differences of approximately 0.5 metre may be experienced. Persistent and strong South-Westerlies may increase tidal heights here by up to a metre or more, whilst Northerly or Easterly winds may reduce heights by 0.5 metre. These winds can also shift High Water times by up to 20 minutes. When planning the entry of a deep draft ship into the

Port of Silloth, these fluctuations can create some interesting problems.

Low Water at Silloth occurs approximately seven hours after the preceding High Water. This means that the next incoming tide has only five and a half hours to reach its next high water cycle. Consequently the incoming tide flows much faster than the ebb. A few words of caution therefore, to all those who like to venture out on the sands, especially during big spring tides.

Chris Puxley,  
Harbour Master &  
Port Superintendent, ABP Silloth

Dear Buzz,

Many thanks to all the kind people who sent get well card, gifts and telephoned good wishes.

A big thank you to Dr. Johnstone and to all the district nurses who have attended me.

You were great. Thanks a million.

Alan Biglands

Dear Buzz,

Many thanks to family and friends for the lovely cards and kind thoughts to Eddie during his stay in hospital.

Thank you all.

Eddie & Nora Blair

Dear Buzz,

During March I had cause to travel to the Carrs fertiliser plant on the airfield, passing the Solway Holiday complex and across the runways. I stopped to look down the runways and an eerie feeling came over me as I thought about the pilots and their feelings.

I thought about all the people who provided the services i.e. fire service, life boat service and not forgetting the Florence Nightingales of Silloth, they are to be thanked for their dedication for the sake of us all, local people and visitors alike. We often take these things for granted it sometimes take an outsider to remind us of the thanks we owe to others for the lovely area we live in.

As Silloth sleeps beneath Solway skies  
Watched over by a thousand stars  
Wildlife of the night comes out to play  
Heralding the end of a perfect day  
The breeze through the trees, that jet up high

The hum of the mill,  
All part of Silloths' lullaby  
Song of Silloth wait and see  
One day maybe, you'll sing for me  
And I may sleep beneath Solway skies  
And along to your lullabies

Tony Gray

## Cumbria Rural Academy

Support for Rural Academy's unique mission.

The Rural Academy, made up of schools spanning Cumbria, has received magnificent backing from businesses, organisations and individuals across the County and beyond for its ambitions to create a unique "Virtual College".

The latest sponsorship pledge has been received from Cumbria Community Foundation, which has allocated almost £20,000 to support the collective bid for Technology College status by the nine Secondary Schools.

Part of this grant is from the Cumberland Educational Foundation, managed by the Community Foundation, to support the educational needs of young people under the age of 25, living in the former county of Cumberland. The remainder is from its Cumbria Community Recovery Fund, which raised £2.2m to aid the recovery of rural communities from the effects of the Foot and Mouth outbreak.

The pledge was presented to the Headteachers by the Vice Chairman of the Foundation Arthur Sanderson who said, "We are delighted to support the Rural Academy in its work to improve opportunities for the young people and wider communities served by the schools. The key features of this initiative, partnership working to address issues of rural isolation plus the fact that it includes so many areas of the County, are very important to us".



Left-Right:

Maurice Peddelty, Headteacher, Samuel King's School, Alston;  
Sara Gaston-Parry, Headteacher, Ehenside School, Cleator;  
Alan Clouston, Headteacher, Beacon Hill School, Aspatria;  
Peter Normington, Sponsorship Coordinator for the Rural Academy;  
Dave Smith, Headteacher, Settlebeck High School, Sedburgh;  
Terry Hobson, Headteacher, Appleby Grammar School, Appleby;  
Mike Major, Headteacher, John Ruskin School, Coniston;  
Arthur Sanderson, Vice-Chair of Cumbria Community Foundation

These features were also highlighted by Chris Holmes, Chief Executive of Carrs Milling Industries, Carlisle, who have also offered a sponsorship pledge of £3,000 to the Academy.

The schools have now completed their joint Technology College bid, which was recently sent off to the Department for Education & Skills in London.

A successful result will enable the Academy to use the latest technologies to realise their vision of transforming learning opportunities, raising expectations, and reducing isolation in their communities.