

## Solway Pet Supplies



Open:  
Tue - Sat  
10am to 4pm

Local Deliveries

29a Eden Street  
Silloth  
Mobile: 077 5243 1667  
Tel: 016973 32025

## Brownrigg Equestrian

near Abbeytown

New and Second Hand  
Horse & Rider Tack

For opening hours and directions, please phone:  
016973 61208 or  
078 1224 7065

Steve Thompson,  
the horse behaviourist,  
can also be contacted at  
Brownrigg

Visit a Real  
Old Fashioned  
English Pub

## The Albion

For Traditional Ales  
in a Traditional Pub

Eden Street, Silloth  
Tel: 016973 31321

## Lomas Fishmongers

Full selection of  
Fresh Fish

Solway Shrimps  
a speciality

Poultry  
Cumberland Sausage  
Made in Cumbria Products  
Local Vegetables  
Eggs

2 Wampool Street, Silloth  
016973 31334

## West Silloth Motors

Cumberland Cottages ~ West Silloth ~ CA7 4HF  
Tel & Fax: 016973 32833

### Motor Vehicle & Body Repairs

Free MOT Checks  
Specialists in all motor trades  
Recovery Service  
Members of Accident Advice Helpline  
Insurance Approved Body Repair Specialist

## Silloth on Solway Community Shop

\* Local people working for local causes \*  
\* All proceeds go back into the community \*  
\* Please continue donating \*  
\* Collection can be arranged \*  
Contact: Maureen on 016973 31636

## S.O.S.C.S.

Open every day  
10am to 4pm  
Tel: 32452

S.O.S.C.S.  
12 Criffel Street  
Silloth

## Winters Post Office

Newspapers ~ Magazines  
Sweets ~ Rock Novelties  
Gifts ~ Toys  
Greetings Cards ~ Postcards  
Fax & Photocopying service

Eden Street, Silloth (opposite the Golf Hotel)  
Shop: 016973 31323 ~ PO: 016973 32957

## One of the Few

Story by:  
Bill & Winifred Allan

Ian Muirhead (Born in London) spent his childhood and started school in Abbeytown before attending Nelson school at Wigton. He joined the RAF aged 17 as an engineering apprentice, where as a keen sportsman shooting both pistol and rifle and also swimming for his squadron, winning many cups and medals. Becoming a Pilot five years later gaining his commission in 1940 with 151 squadron which flew Gloster Gladiators and later Hurricanes.



Ian Muirhead DFC

Ian was recognised for shooting down the first German plane over the North sea, East of Newcastle, later being transferred to 605 Squadron. After many sorties he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for shooting down four German planes in five days. (The first in 605 Squadron.) When the news arrived at Abbeytown the headmaster gathered together the school children where all cheered and sang the National Anthem.



Ian's DFC medal

While on Sorties over France a bullet went through his radiator and Ian parachuted out over Belgium landing in a tree where the locals thought he was a German and fired at him, he managed to scramble into a ditch where he stayed until he could convince his attackers he was English.

Having managed a lift to Ostend he caught a ship for England only to be torpedoed (with a loss of 273 lives). After being in the water for 6 hours, he was picked up by a Destroyer, taken to England and transferred by hospital train to Middlesbrough with injuries to his legs and a burst ear drum. On recovery he flew many battles but unfortunately on the 15th October 1940

while patrolling over Maidstone at 28,000ft with 11 Hurricanes saw 10 Messerschmitt 109's at 23,000ft. and eight behind at 32,000ft. The Hurricanes diving upon the leaders shooting down two Me109's and badly damaging three, Flt. Lt. Muirhead's plane

was itself damaged near Gillingham and it was noticed by two farm workmen who, after hearing gunfire, saw his plane coming straight towards them, the pilot baling out and landing 300 yards from them with his parachute not properly opened. Upon reaching Ian it was discovered he had died on impact.

Aviation experts believe Ian was trying to land but something unexpected went wrong or he was trying to miss a built up area.

Ian's body was returned to his family at Abbeytown by train and now rests in front of the Abbey of St. Mary, Holme Cultram, Abbeytown. Where the stone stands alone, as he was so often in the skies. During the Burial Service in his honour, planes from Silloth overflew and an Airman played the Last Post.

He is survived by a sister Dorothy who supplied this information from amongst her many records and photos.

Mr. Donald Foster laying a wreath at the grave of Ian Muirhead DFC, with some of Abbeytown's Poppy Sellers  
Left to Right:  
Mrs. N. Foster  
Mrs. E. Foster  
Mrs. F. Holliday  
and Mrs. B. Sim

## Ellenvale & Solway WI's

The Annual Meeting of the Ellenvale & Solway Group of WI's was held in the Aspatria Rugby Club.

Group Convenor Gladys Temple welcomed 95 members from ten WI's and introduced Mrs Pat Bell (President of Causewayhead WI) as chairman of the evening. Pat then introduced Pauline Bibby (Ireby WI) who encouraged all WI's to take part in the 'Community Challenge', which is continuing next year. She spoke of her various jobs on the Executive Committee and what a lot of work goes into organising the many events.

Pat Bell introduced Des Oliver who has been a member of Keswick Mountain Rescue for over 45 years. He talked of his experiences walking the Alps with three companions and showed slides of beautiful mountain scenery, tracing their route for 300 miles over peaks reaching over 4,000 feet high. He also showed various camping 'Huts' of differing sizes and facilities with amusing antidotes of some experiences they encountered.

Holme St. Cuthbert members served tea with home-made biscuits provided by Crosby & Waverton WI and the Literature stall manned by Bothel WI did a brisk trade.

Pat Bell introduced the entertainers for the evening, Causewayhead WI, who read poems and verses, the theme being 'Women', which had the audience rolling off their chairs with laughter.

Five ladies then presented a short Pantomime of Cinderella, which was hilarious. Mrs Lesley Evans (President of Dundraw WI) thanked Causewayhead WI for a wonderful feel-good entertainment.

The competitions organised by Plumbland WI were judged by Des Oliver, the 'photo of a mountain' 1<sup>st</sup> Gladys Temple, Abbeytown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pat Heron, Crosby, 'two rock buns' 1<sup>st</sup> Mrs M Foster, West Newton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Peggy Appleyard, Dundraw. 'Post card of a mountain' 1<sup>st</sup> Lesley Evans, Dundraw, 2<sup>nd</sup> Phylis Dockeray, Dundraw. The raffle was organised by West Newton WI. Winners 1<sup>st</sup> Joan Winter, Holme St. Cuthberts, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tessa Cowgill, Plumbland, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mavis Graham, Abbeytown, 4<sup>th</sup> Enid Bull, Bothel.

### NEW YEARS EVE FAMILY CELEBRATION

Mawbray Village Hall

Disco - Bar  
Shared Supper  
8pm - 1 pm

Adults £4  
Children (School Age) £2

## Shape 'n' Style

Shape 'n' Style welcomes Claire Strick back after the birth of her beautiful baby boy. Claire qualified at Carlisle College, over ten years ago and looks forward to meeting old and new clients again. Claire has new Matrix products, perms and colours, etc., available to use, especially the new natural Brolage Range. Book now for your Christmas and New Year appointments.

## Silloth Vintage Rally

Silloth Vintage Rally will be holding a Craft & Music Fair in 2005 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June on Silloth Green with free admission. The two day event will feature tractors, stationery engines, motor bikes, cars & wagons, steam engines, a giant fun fair, auto jumble & trade stands. For bookings telephone Jacquie on 016977 41401.

