

Make Poverty History - Music With Intent

Report by: Tim Barker

Churches Together in Silloth took advantage of the whole August Bank Holiday weekend this year to present a series of events in a tent on The Green. On Saturday evening they staged their own Live Aid concert to raise awareness of the "Make Poverty History" campaign. Two bands, local duo Simpson/Devine and four solo artists took part in a four-hour programme of music to rival Solfest down the road. Indeed Simpson/Devine were also taking part in Solfest as was Wigton

singer Elaine Davidson who had written a song especially for Live Aid on the Green. This song "Turning the Tide" was inspired by "Make Poverty History" and Elaine's experiences at the massive rally in Edinburgh in July. We heard it first in Silloth!

Also on the bill were Silloth's Becky Byrom, David Partington from Edinburgh, Christian Reay of Silloth with his band I Poyng and Becky G from County Durham. Northeast band Breach held the evening together and closed the show in rousing style. Over £150 was raised for charity Tearfund.

Sunday was as notable for the weather as for the actual events. Very high winds meant that the organisers had to spend much of the day replacing tent pegs and tying extra guy ropes but the tent stood firm - the answer to a lot of prayer! Undeterred by the crack of canvas and the shaking of the whole structure families enjoyed an hour of fun with Christian puppeteer Tom o'Donnell



before locals and visitors filled the tent for a Songs of Praise with favourite hymns chosen by all the six churches in Silloth. The last event of the day was a wonderful concert by Mark One, a youth gospel choir from West Cumbria.

Fortunately for the tent (and for Silloth Carnival), Bank Holiday

Monday was mild and sunny and the sides were opened up so that everyone going to the Green could see what was going on and join in singing, buy Fair Trade goods, pick up Christian literature and see Tom o'Donnell and his puppets again.

Churches Together in Silloth are grateful to

many, many people for help with this project but would specially like to thank Silloth Town Council, the Carnival Committee, Charlie Harrison, Jonathan Hansford and Steven Henderson. The tent belongs to Tony Witmore of Silloth Evangelical Free Church and can be hired for local events.

Exam Success

Congratulations to Rebecca Berry who has recently completed her NVQ Level 3 in Childcare!

Rebecca joined The Old Post Office Nursery last April and has been a great hit with the children and has quickly become a popular member of the TOPO Team.

Manager, Karen Bell said "we have a lovely atmosphere here at TOPO and Becky seems to have fitted in so easily - we are really pleased with her contribution and hope that she is willing to continue her studies whilst working to further her career".

TOPO Nursery has four new recruits starting September 2005 who wish to do their work experience in the setting whilst studying for NVQ 2 Level Childcare. Karen said "At TOPO we don't just see ourselves as a childcare business - we hope to set a standard for students to experience good practice".



Big Mama Bee by Katie Timperon aged 11 from Holm Cultram Abbey School

Celebrating 25 years of SPAR in Silloth

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