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Peter Josef Est. 1970

HMS Biter re-visits Silloth

Report by:
Chris Puxley

During the weekend of 31st March to 2nd April, the Royal Naval patrol craft HMS BITER paid a visit to the Port of Silloth during her Spring navigational training cruise of the north west of England and western Scotland.

HMS BITER, built at Shoreham in 1985, is an "Archer" class fast patrol and coastal training craft, attached to Manchester & Salford Universities Royal Navy Unit since 1992. She forms part of the 1st Patrol Boat Squadron (1PBS), tasked by the Commander in Chief Fleet. She is the fifth Royal Navy ship to bear this name, the previous vessel being an 8,200 ton escort aircraft carrier which saw service during the 2nd World War.

Based at Brunswick Dock, Liverpool, the current HMS BITER with a normal crew of five regular RN personnel, provides a practical opportunity for up to 12 university undergraduates to experience life at sea



Photo by: Chris Puxley

HMS Biter entering Silloth Dock

with the Royal Navy.

Arriving in glorious sunshine at Silloth on Friday 31st March at 2pm precisely, she smartly took up her allocated berth in New Dock. The ship held a small reception on board for guests that evening. Unfortunately the good weather on arrival did not last and the reception held in the wheelhouse was cosy to say the least!

Saturday was a day of sunshine and a few showers, during which the ship was open to the public between 11am and 3pm. Members of the ship's company escorted visitors around the craft, explaining the intricacies of life on board. Other attractions were provided by RNLI volunteers, who had a souvenir stall alongside

the BITER and staged a display in the dock with Silloth's high speed inshore lifeboat SPIRIT OF CUMBRIA. The water-borne contingent was supported by the Nith Rescue Boat, which crossed the Solway from Glencaple, the Brough-by-Sands Coastguard rescue boat and Silloth Lifeboat Station's own training boat (an ex "D" class inshore lifeboat).

The BITER sailed from Silloth on Sunday at 3pm precisely, with her next port of call being Troon, on the Clyde estuary.

This was the second annual visit to Silloth by HMS BITER and it is expected she will call again next year. Many thanks are relayed from the ship's company to all those in the town who made them welcome.

Changing Telephone Numbers

Allerdale Borough Council's telephone numbers have changed.

As part of the Council's drive to deliver better services, the current telephone system is being replaced with a new system. This will be able to link all of the Council's offices together on one network, regardless of where the offices are located, saving money on phone calls.

By providing information about busy periods and how many callers don't get through on the first attempt, the new system will also help the Council to target resources more effectively and increase customers' satisfaction.

Councillor Phil Tibble said: "This is another example of the Council's investment in new technology. The new system will allow better and quicker access to Council services and a speedy, more efficient way of working. Our joint procurement of this system with Carlisle means that we have also saved money." The new general enquiries number for Allerdale Borough Council is 01900 702702.

Tip for the Top

Fine and Thin Looking
Hair

You may be surprised to know that 50% of women in the U.K. have fine or thinning hair. We all lead increasingly stressful lives, take more medication and go on crazy diets. These are just some of the things that cause our hair to thin! In addition, pregnancy, thyroid problems, chemotherapy and ageing may cause hair loss.

The common mistake is to treat the hair, when the problem starts in the scalp. What you need is skin-care for the scalp that cleanses and nourishes the scalp and helps to create the best possible growing environment for stronger, thicker and healthier-looking hair. You also want a product that will add body and volume to fine hair leaving it vibrant, shiny and manageable.

Peter at Peter Josef

Shop Owner Prosecuted

The owner of a long-term empty and dilapidated shop in Workington has been successfully prosecuted by Allerdale Borough Council for a second time.

David McAllister, who is the owner of the property at 75 Corporation Road, Workington, was prosecuted at West Allerdale Magistrates Court on 20th September 2005, for failing to carry out a schedule of repairs and restoration within 90 days following a notice served by the Council under section 79(1) of the Building Act 1984. At that time Mr McAllister was fined £100 and ordered to pay £75 costs.

At the original hearing in September it was noted that for

several years, following complaints from local residents and representations from a ward councillor, two officers of the Council, had been trying to persuade Mr McAllister to take action to resolve problems being caused by the dilapidated building.

Despite planning consent to convert the redundant shop into a dwelling Mr McAllister took no significant action to renovate or remove the building and its appearance on the streetscape was considered to be seriously detrimental to the area, blighting the locality. Following the failure of the owner to respond to informal pressure a statutory notice was served upon him under Section 79 of the Building Act 1984

requiring an owner to deal with a "ruinous or dilapidated" building, either by renovation or demolition. This did not happen and, rather than prepare to carry out direct works in default as with other similar properties, the decision was taken to prosecute the owner.

However following the prosecution and despite a further meeting and reminder letters, the vast majority of the works were not carried out to the property.

On 4th April, West Allerdale Magistrates Court found the case against Mr McAllister proved and he was fined £500 and ordered to pay £75 costs.

Mr McAllister failed to appear at the Court and the case was heard in his absence.