

The Solway Tides

Report by: Port of Silloth Harbour Master

Silloth tide tables indicate the predicted Time of High Water at Silloth and also the predicted Height that the tide will reach on the tide-board at the entrance to the "New Dock". A prediction is what it says and is no guarantee of actual time and tidal height on the day, (see below).

High Water times for Allonby and Beckfoot will occur approximately between ten and five minutes before High Water at Silloth. The further up the Solway Firth you proceed,

the later will be the time of High Water, e.g. at Annan it occurs approximately twenty minutes after that at Silloth.

Note that the times given relate to "Greenwich Mean Time", (GMT). During "British Summer Time", (usually from the end of March to the end of October), one hour should be added to the time given in the table.

The Tidal Range, (difference in height between High and Low Water), at Silloth during Spring Tides can be as much as 10 metres. At these times the Tidal

Flow off Silloth can reach a speed of 4 knots.

The predicted times and heights of tide given in the tide table are usually accurate but both can be affected by weather conditions. If the region is experiencing low barometric pressure, the tide is likely to rise above the predicted height. Conversely, if the region is in a high barometric pressure area, the tide may not reach the predicted height. Differences up to 0.5 metre may be experienced. The wind can also affect the tidal height and time of High Water. Strong South-Westerlies may increase tidal heights by up to a metre or more, whilst Northerly and Easterly winds may reduce heights by half a metre. Extremes of pressure or strong winds can shift the High Water time by up to 20 minutes.

From approximately three-quarters of an hour before High Water is reached at Silloth, an outward flowing counter-current is often experienced close to the beach.

There is negligible tidal stream in Allonby Bay from two hours after High Water until two hours before the next High Water, due to the uncovering of extensive sandbanks off Dubmill Point.

The heights of Low Water are not given in the tide tables because at the Port of Silloth, the tide frequently ebbs out to a level that is below the entrance sill of "New Dock", marked by

zero on the tide-board. Commercial vessels cannot move in the tidal area of the port, nor navigate much of the Solway channel during this period. Shipping in "New Dock" is kept afloat by dock gates, which retain the water from the previous high tide.

Low Water in the Silloth area occurs approximately Seven Hours After High Water. This means that the next incoming tide has only approximately five and a half hours to reach its next high water cycle. Consequently, the incoming tide flows at a much faster rate than the outgoing tide. The further up the estuary you go, the faster the incoming flow becomes. At times, the flood tide in the higher reaches of the Solway Firth will flow for just three hours, creating a fierce current of water and sometimes a moving wall of water, known as a Tidal Bore, is formed.

During the lower period of the tidal cycle, numerous shifting sandbanks become visible from the shore.

Be advised that there are Deep Channels and Strong Currents between the shore and any exposed sandbanks.

YOU ARE WARNED AGAIN, THAT IN THIS AREA, THE TIDE LEVEL RISES FASTER THAN IT EBBS. STRONG CURRENTS CAN BE EXPERIENCED, ESPECIALLY BESIDE GROYNES AND AT THE PORT ENTRANCE.

Oldest Shop Closes



Joe & Bessie Lomas took over in 1927

Report by:
Ivan & Molly Lomas

Lomas Fishmongers closed on 7th July, having served the community for over 100 years by three generations of the Lomas family.

The shop was opened in 1904 at the existing premises, 4 Wampool Street, by Jackie Byers selling fresh Scottish fish and Silloth shrimps and local poultry. His nephew Joe Lomas, then working as a chemist at CARR'S Mill and his wife Bessie took over the business in 1927. There they both worked until Joe died in 1970. Early in 1928 Joe bought himself a Van and started trading in Abbeytown, Aspatria and Allonby districts, while Bessie sold the produce in the shop, adding a specialist pork Cumberland sausage to their range. This sausage was supplied by the Robinson brothers of Allonby who were popular pork butchers. During the Second

World War Joe used one of his fishing boats and helped rescue many airmen who were saved from the Solway after their aircraft had crashed taking off from the local airfield. At the end of the war he was awarded the RNLI Silver medal.

Joe's son Ivan and his wife Molly came into the business in 1958 and continued serving the public until Ivan retired in 2004, thus keeping the business prospering for 100 years. During that time they added locally grown vegetables and speciality foods to their considerable range but during all this time

they were supplied with quality fresh fish daily from the same suppliers, G.W. Robertson, from Aberdeen who had supplied Jackie in 1904. When the railway was open the fish boxes were delivered to Silloth station from Carlisle having travelled overnight from Aberdeen containing that morning's fresh catch from the quayside and leaving Aberdeen at 1 am. Ivan continued to deliver round the district with his mobile shop and both were pleased to continue the family tradition of quality and service. They made many good friends and served many families who came regularly year after year to Silloth for their holidays and supplied many groups of golfers who would place orders before their rounds of golf and collected the completed orders on their departure from the town. One of their regular customers was Lord Whitelaw who was always keen to learn of local news. During this time Bessie, who was still active, was a fount of knowledge of past times in Silloth and was consulted regularly by reporters from the Cumberland News about Silloth history. She worked until she was 84 and loved every minute of her time spent in the shop.

After Ivan and Molly retired in 2004 Alison Whittell bought and leased the premises to Alfred and Brenda Bennett who continued the business. Alfred's parents Freddie and Lucy both worked for many years for the Lomas family.

Molly & Ivan Lomas

SKINBURNNESS LEISURE HOTEL Silloth-on-Solway Cumbria, CA7 4QY

Brand New Menu Brand New Restaurant

Charming, attractive and modern our beautifully re-decorated restaurant is the perfect place to enjoy our mouth watering delicious new menu a small sample of which can be found below.

If it's just a sandwich and a coffee you desire, we have suggestions from plain cheese for £3.50 to mozzarella + pepperoni meltz with pesto oil in focaccia bread for £4.25. Take advantage of the glorious weather and eat alfresco in our picturesque gardens or on our delightful patio.

Or, if it's a Bar meal your after we cover it all from our soon to be famous Nachos, smothered in melted mozzarella with salsa, sour cream & guacamole only £3.75, Home made steak pie for £6.95, Teriyaki salmon with oriental noodles and mango chilli compote at a fantastic £9.50 to juicy Rump steaks with cheese and bacon hash & tomato chutney for only £8.95.

Then there's our deserts.

Home made and deliciously, why not try something tempting like:-

Raspberry and mascarpone cheesecake
Baileys and banana bread and butter pudding
Coconut and lime panacota
or Traditional sticky toffee pudding with whipped cream and butter scotch sauce.

All for only £3.50 each.

We also have a delicious range of vegetarian dishes and a separate menu for the little ones for as little as £3.00 although we are more than happy to do small portions from the main menu as well.

With friendly, helpful staff that will do their very best to ensure you and your family have a wonderful time, what more could you ask for?

Ring 016973 32332 to book NOW

