

Firefighters Memorial Service



Report by: Peter Long
Watch Manager of Silloth
Fire Station

On the 10th December a service was held in a packed Christ Church, Silloth, to honour the memory of four Silloth firefighters; John Johnstone, Joseph Bell, Stanley Graham and Alex Ramsay.

Tragically, 50 years ago to the day, they lost their lives on a stormy December evening. They were called out and launched a 14ft rescue boat to go to the rescue of someone reportedly in difficulties on the Solway Marsh. There was no lifeboat in Silloth at

that time and the rescue boat was housed in the fire station and manned when needed by the local firefighters or firemen as they were then called.

After this tragedy a lifeboat was provided by the RNLI and a crew of volunteers were trained up.

During the service the weather outside gave everyone a taste of what it must have been like on that night 50 years ago. The Church was lashed by the wind and rain. A small service was held at the graveyard at Causewayhead where the four firefighters are buried side by side.



Wreaths were laid by Watch Manager Peter Long, Crew Manager Martin Slack, Crew Manager Steven Henderson and Firefighter Michael Aird on behalf of the Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service. Crew Manager Stuart Graham of the Silloth First Responders, Jim

Blake on behalf of the Lifeboat Station and Geoff Betsworth on behalf of Silloth Rotary. A memorial plaque has since been erected on the front wall of Silloth Fire Station recorded with the date of the tragedy, the names and ages of the four very courageous firefighters.

Christmas Crib Service



Report by:
Tim Barker
aka The Puppet

Christ Church was full at 6pm on Christmas Eve for the annual Crib Service which is still a treat for the younger children of the town.

They're invited to come along dressed as characters to stand round the big crib (with a real baby!) in front of the altar. There were some shepherds and Mary and Joseph but no Wise Men. Most of the girls had decided that they were angels and their mums had agreed for once, dressing them in glorious gowns, all with halos attached.

The service was led by Vicar Alan Byrom and included a number of popular carols sung while the children assembled round the crib. The Christmas story was told this year by lively puppet Benjamin in his Arab head-dress who welcomed everyone to his stable.

The most magical part of the evening was when the church lights were

put out and everyone sat in the soft glow of the candles they had brought with them.

Grateful thanks to everyone who contributed, especially Vicky Carruthers and her son Taylor who was a perfectly behaved baby Jesus.



Skinburness Residents Association

A progress meeting to save the Skinburness Hotel was held in the Golf Hotel on 4th December. Towards the end of the meeting there was a majority vote to resurrect the Skinburness Residents Association

and a committee of 14 evolved. The objective being to tackle local issues, examples were suggested of possible projects to be considered, some of which were long term projects.

There were

memberships taken on the night and a majority vote agreed the membership cost of £10 per annum per household. Anyone wishing to join please complete and return the form. There is additional space on the form for your views and opinions on projects for consideration. Note: Those who have already joined please use the form for your views and mark it "already a member".

The first of the Skinburness Residents Association meetings was held on Sunday 17th December in the Golf Hotel. There are

always a few teething problems when setting up new committees we must apologise to those committee members who were not aware of this first date.

Our next public meeting is on Thursday 15th February at 7:30pm in the Golf Hotel with a view to amending the Constitution. Please come along if you want to join, simply complete the adjoining form and bring it with you. Your views are important and will be considered

Information from future meetings will be published in the Solway Buzz.

Skinburness Residents Association

Application to Join, there is an annual charge payable of £10 per household payable by cash or cheque

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

Comments:

Bring to the Golf Hotel on 15th February @ 7:30pm or, Post to the Secretary: Simon Boniface, Seadyke End, Skinburness, CA7 4PH

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