

## More Plain People Winner



Mrs Ann Hobson being presented with a copy of More Plain People by Karen Simpson (right) and Betty Connolly (left), from Holme St Cuthbert History Group

In the December issue of the Solway Buzz, Holme St Cuthbert History Group made an appeal for information about a photograph which appears on the back cover of their latest local history book, More Plain People and Places on the Cumbrian Solway Coast.

The photo taken in the 1930s is a wonderful shot of Mr Gray and his donkeys plus children on Silloth Green.

We are delighted to report that Mrs Ann Hobson from Silloth has come forward with information. Mrs Hobson (nee White) is the girl in the centre, (on the left of the empty donkey) and she can clearly remember the day. Mrs Hobson who lived at Skinburness as a child loved the donkeys and

spent every opportunity she could with them.

She pestered Mr Gray, affectionately known as Father Gray until he gave her a job at the age of eight, taking the children for rides up and down the green at weekends and during school holidays. The children preferred her as she would make the donkeys trot whereas Father Gray just walked.

The photo was taken in 1934 when she was ten. The three children on the left she thinks had come from Carlisle on the train on a cheap day return ticket, and the girl on the right and her sister (not in the photo) were from Preston on holiday. Mrs Hobson remembers the photographer and his female assistant taking a

great deal of time setting up the shot and fussing about. The little girl who was on the empty donkey got so fed up she got off the donkey and stormed off in a huff.

The photograph was commissioned by Woods, Silloth's leading publishers of post cards and guide books. The family ran the famous 'emporium' at the corner of Wampool Street for over a hundred years.

The book More Plain People is a fascinating glimpse back in time of life on the coastal fringe of the Solway Plain, from Saltpans to Skinburness. The first book Plain People, Bygone Times on the Cumbrian Solway Plain, has been reprinted due to popular demand.

Both books are available for £9.95 each from Winters, Silloth Tourist Information Centre, The Gincase, Harrison's Shop Abbeytown, Post Office and Papershop Allonby.

Helen Bee  
by  
Kate Turnbull  
from  
Holm Cultram Abbey School

## 1942 Lockheed Hudson Crash Site



Report by: Geoff Bland

Above: the crash site  
Below: Lockheed Hudson with crew

On the 10th November 1942 a Lockheed Hudson mark AM680 left Silloth Airfield on a routine training flight, with a crew of four.

The aircraft crashed on Beda Head, above Martindale, in the Lake District with the loss of all the crew.

The photo shows the crash site on 12th April 2007 with fell walkers Malcolm Jackson and John Kellett, photographed by Geoff Bland.

For a detailed account of this incident see page 61 of 'Hell on High Ground' volume two by David Earl.



Bee by  
Lana Maddison from  
Silloth Primary School



Holly Bee  
by  
Holly Forster  
from  
Silloth Primary School

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