



Doctor Bee
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Solway Buzz

www.solwaybuzz.co.uk

December 2008

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FREE PAPER

Issue 70

Page 2
Published Poet



Page 3
Donation



Page 6
Tea Party



Page 7
Children in Need



Page 8
Tot's & Toddler's



Page 9
Memory Walk



Page 14
In the Pink



Page 16
Tigers Rugby Juniors



NEW LIFEBOAT

Silloth RNLI lifeboat station has become the first in North West England to operate the most technologically advanced inshore lifeboat in the rescue charity's fleet – the Atlantic 85.

The £160,000 lifeboat went into service on November 15th and replaces Silloth's 13 year old Atlantic 75 lifeboat, Spirit of Cumbria. It has been funded by a generous legacy from Cheshire man Don Wilkinson, a long time RNLI supporter, and the lifeboat is named Elaine and Don Wilkinson in honour of him and his wife.

Silloth RNLI lifeboat operations manager, Eddie Studholme, said: 'The crew are all very impressed by their new lifeboat, which is faster and more capable than our previous Atlantic, and we are so grateful to Mr Wilkinson for his very generous legacy. The RNLI depends on donations and legacies like his and without such generosity, we would not be able to carry on our vital life saving role.'

Mr Wilkinson, from Altrincham in Cheshire, died in 2001. He was a Life Governor of the RNLI and gave illustrated talks about the



work of the charity. His legacy has also funded a D class inshore lifeboat, which is part of the RNLI's relief fleet.

The Atlantic 85 is the first inshore lifeboat to have radar, which means it can operate more effectively in reduced visibility. It is also faster and bigger than its predecessor, with room for a fourth crew member as well as more space for casualties.

The Atlantic 85 was developed in close

consultation with volunteer crews and a prototype was trialled at lifeboat stations around the coast before the final design went into production

RNLI Divisional Inspector, North, Andy Clift said: 'With its increased speed and size and technological advancements like radar, the Atlantic 85 will enable our volunteer lifeboatmen and women to carry out their life saving work more safely

and effectively than ever before.'

Silloth RNLI held an appeal in 2007 and raised £33,000 to fund training at their lifeboat station, ensuring the volunteer crew were familiar with their new lifeboat and ready to man it as soon as it arrived.

Their old lifeboat, Spirit of Cumbria, launched 98 times and rescued 53 people while stationed at Silloth. It will now go into the RNLI relief fleet, operating at

lifeboat stations when their own Atlantic 75 is being refitted or repaired.

Atlantic 85 facts:
Length overall 8.3m
Beam overall 2.8m
Draught (engines raised) 0.5m
Draught (engines down) 0.9m
Outboard engines 2 x 115hp Yamaha 4-stroke
Speed 35 knots
Endurance 2.5 hours
Crew 4
Fitted with radar, chart plotter, VHF/DF.

Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year to all our Readers, with a special thanks to the Distributors, Contributors and especially the Advertisers who provide the funding

Xmas Lights Competition

It's back! After a break of several years the Silloth Christmas Lights Competition is on again. The judges will be checking houses from Blitterlees to Skinburness Road including Barracks

Bridge and awarding prizes for the best displays.

1st Prize: £50
2nd Prize: £25
plus three runners-up prizes of £10 each.

Judging will take place on Friday 5th December.

Silloth Lights Switch-On

Come down to Eden Street for an evening of fun and festivities on Friday 28th November at 6pm.

There will be Santa's Grotto, Funfair, School Choir and the fantastic new Christmas lights switch-on.

Don't miss out on a great evening.