

Your Letters

Dear Buzz,

Wind in the Willows According to my edition, this "nation treasure" was first published in October 1908, which surely makes it worth a very big "CENTENARY" celebration. Of all the television I watch, newspapers I read and radio that I listen to I honestly do not remember seeing or hearing any mention of it being made this year. This seems ODD, to say the least, considering the way lots of trivia is continuously blasted out at us. Anyone out there in the literary world?

Michael Faulkner

Dear Buzz,

During the course of the year a number of fundraising events were held at Silloth Social Club. We write to thank the Committee of the club, the various act's and all of those who attended and contributed to make the events as success. These events raised the following; Brainwave Appeal: £1,000 Autistic Society: £846.70 Donnas Dream-house: £1,000.

Mr & Mrs C Morris

Dear Buzz,

I am writing following my surprise 40th birthday party which took place in the Rugby club. I would like to say a few thank you's, firstly to the Rugby Club for the venue plus Christine and staff for there hard work through out the night. To Lillian, Carole, Angela and my Mam for the food, Carole again for the lovely cake, Brian and Sharon for contacting so many people at short notice, Stephen Stanwix and all the bowling lads for there expert deception, everyone who attended your kind cards and gifts are very much appreciated and also to my special Wife Maria thank you for making it so special. Finally competition results were as follows: Fancy Dress winner was Davy Lightfoot, Davy also picked up the best Gurn of the night award and finally Best dancer went to Dave Allen who is now through to the regional finals.

Thanks again Mark Smith

Dear Buzz,

To follow on from your two reports in The Buzz, about the swims across the Solway, from Scotland to England. My mother and father, told me years ago about the chap from Preston. At that time someone had put up a trophy and prize money, for anybody to do the swim. My father was 19 at the time and very, very fit,{ he used to run a gym for the local lads at West Silloth } For a practice, After my mother and her sisters at Maryport, covered him with lard and goose grease. He set off from Maryport pier on the slack tide, and then the flood tide carried him up the Solway towards Silloth. Swimming against the ebb tide for the last part of the swim to Silloth pier, followed by his own fishing boat. And then before he could attempt the swim from Southernness to Silloth, This chap from Preston came up and swam across from Annan or the mouth of the River Annan, coming out at Silloth, to a great welcome, crowds town band the lot and claimed the trophy and prize money. My father was rather annoyed, that the chap had swam from Annan, rather than Southernness, because he said that if he started off on slack water the ebb tide would take him to Silloth like swimming down a river. So good luck to Derek Griffiths from Barrow, who came across from Southernness against both flood and ebb currents.

George Proud

Dear Buzz,

I would like to thank everyone involved with the Silloth Music & Beer Festival for an excellent event. All 12 of us thought it was excellent and we are already talking about going back in 2009. Hopefully bringing a few more. Shame the weather was so poor for the Golf on Friday and Saturday but it cannot happen two years in a row (can it?)!

Kindest regards, and "til next time.

Alan Crofts International Golf Club of Belgium

Dear Buzz,

I have recently moved to Cumbria from Essex, to be near my daughter and her family. Apart from the weather I am very much enjoying my new abode, however I am a keen Bridge player, and find that the nearest bridge club is quite a distance away. As I taught bridge in Essex, I am hoping to start a club here in Mawbray, when I have enough players. I am quite ready to give instruction, and hope to get a class started with the children at Holme St. Cuthbert's school. Any whist players will find bridge a very much more intriguing game, and even if you do not play whist, I can cope with this problem, as my class will learn to play whist in the course of learning bridge. The game is very widely played in the South of England. It improves memory. There is no age limit, I have played against 92 year olds, and in the midlands is a 100 year old who still plays I can be contacted on 01900 881012 for more information,

Mike Madden

Dear Buzz,

Just a small letter to all my old customers and to my present customers. I will be starting to trade again, doing taxi's during the week and still at weekends. I will apologise to everyone that has been let down in the past. But unfortunately due to circumstance's around my family it was impossible for me to work during the week. I am now ready to come back and it would be lovely to see you all again. Phone number has changed to 1697332310/07999934555 I AM NOW TRADING AS HAYLEY'S TRAVEL and still working with (Johnstone's private hire.) We are currently taking bookings for Xmas parties, and also giving reduced rates for return journey's only, for Carlisle, Workington, etc runs. I would also like to thank everyone who took part in the Santa Dash/Blind Auction, it was a very successful day raising over £2,500. There will be a full report in the next issue of the Buzz.

Hayley Forster

Dear Buzz,

I would like to thank all the people who have endured this horrendous weather and given up their time to fit the new Christmas lights. It is encouraging to see the younger generation taking on this daunting task which was introduced by Silloth Rotary Club and latterly by Bill and the late Marilyn Amyes, with support from their helpers. The residents of Silloth and surrounding areas must be thanked also for their generous support in all the fund-raising that has been achieved. It is encouraging to se the community spirit still alive and thriving during these arduous times

Tony Markley County Councillor for the Electoral Division of Solway Coast

Dear Buzz,

Many thanks to everyone for the cards and kindness shown on Marilyn's death. You will be delighted to know that the magnificent amount of £770.18p was raised by your donations for Silloth First Responders. Again many thanks.

Bill Amyes

Dear Buzz,

This is just to say a big thank-you to Mrs Cooper, Linda Cork and Mrs Jones who organised the Solway Mexico link at Solway Community Technology College. This enabled us to have a Mexican child staying with us for two weeks, which at first was a bit daunting, the thought of having another child from so far away to stay. We, the Forster family Hayley and Johnstone, Zoe, Ashleigh, Holly and baby Johnstone took care of a young girl called Paoula, she was so nice but very quite. Johnstone tried really hard to communicate with her but there were times when the poor lass she didn't have a clue what he was saying. It was some experience and would love to do it again. We had so much fun in those two weeks it was great. A massive thank-you to all who helped it was brill. Mr and Mrs Cooper you deserve a medal.

Forster Family

Dear Buzz,

Christmas Wishes

The Mayor and Mayoress of Silloth-on-Solway Councillor & Mrs Wilkinson wish all readers a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year along with a hope of better weather in 2009.

Graham Wilkinson

Dear Buzz,

I would like to thank everyone who prayed, sent cards and asked after me over the last few months. I am happy to say that I am now on the road to recovery and have recently become a granda again. I now have two wonderful granddaughters to keep me occupied. Than you all once again.

Geoff Henderson

Dear Buzz,

In September this year the High Court ruled that the treatment of ex Gurkhas has been unlawful in terms of the right to live in the UK if they retired before 1997. The Gurkhas have served Crown and Country for over 180 years, fought alongside British troops in every field of conflict and during that time have won 26 Victoria Crosses. Their courage, loyalty and orderliness has endeared them to both the military and civilian population of Britain. The Government has now said it will REVIEW the situation. It is deplorable that H.M.G. should drag it's feet on such a moral issue. After 180 years loyal service is there a case to review? A major campaign has been launched to press for full rights for all retired Gurkhas to live in the UK and is supported by a host of prominent people, all mentioned on the special Website. Having had the privilege of serving alongside the Gurkhas in Malaya 1956/57 I can only ask that you lend your support to the campaign. Please visit www.gurkhajustice.org.uk for full details. There are also many other sites which cover their history in detail. For those of you, of which there are many, who do not have access to a computer an official petition is at the RAFA club in Silloth awaiting you signature.

M Faulkner

Dear Buzz,

When I first came to Skinburness many years ago, I didn't know anyone but after a couple of days I found myself chatting to the locals as though I had been born there. Although there have been many changes in the area, I feel that same friendliness is still evident. Sadly, in April I spent my last holiday in Silloth and although I was able to bid farewell to many friends, there were some I was unable to contact. I hope this letter will carry my good wishes to them. Also many thanks to you all for helping me have such wonderful holidays, for many happy memories, but most of all for your friendship. The following poem is my way of saying "Thank You"

Ezma Martindale

Thanks For The Memories

Oh what will I do without Silloth And "The Golf", my second home for so long? After 30-plus years of holidays there I was starting to feel I belonged.

I'd arrive with bags and suitcases Stuffed with jumpers, T-shirts, whatever. "How long have you come for?" was the wail of despair, Well, I had to be prepared for all kinds of weather.

The locals used to laugh when they saw me, "It's that woman from Manchester again, What's she doing out on a day like this?" I'm sure they thought me insane.

I'd scorch on the grune in the sunshine, Battle along the wall in the rain and the snow, Make a tour of the shops if it was foggy, Run on West Beach when I wanted a good blow.

The years raced by and have taken their toll, I can no longer walk in the wind and the rain. So, with a very heavy heart I said goodbye to the Solway, I won't be coming to Silloth again.

I lost Fausto's dog on the Golf Course, Found cockles down on the Grune, Was scared half to death by the R.A.F., When they whizzed by on their jet-propelled brooms.

I flew my kite, had ice-cream, ate fish and chips, Only once paddled my feet in the sea. Oh, what will I do without Silloth? Even worse, what will Silloth do without ME?

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