

Silloth-on-Solway

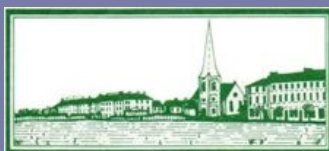
Information for Royal Horticultural Society

'Coastal Town' And 'Its Your Neighbourhood' Awards



Silloth-on-Solway is a popular seaside town, noted for its invigorating but mild climate, its leisurely peaceful atmosphere and its glorious sea views and sunsets, fine enough to be captured by Turner, the famous landscape artist, and more recently by local and visiting photographers. The town occupies a dramatic location, looking out on one side across the Solway Firth to the hills of Dumfries & Galloway and backed on the other side by the Lake District fells. Recently refurbished, Silloth Green is the focal point of the town. Across from the Green is Criffel Street, a broad cobbled thoroughfare lined with trees and grand regency style buildings. Silloth's port, owned by Associated British Ports, is still working. Tourism is an integral part of the local economy and is strongly supported by groups of local volunteers, who organise an extensive programme of events throughout the year. Local people recently input ideas to the design of a new 'Community Garden' on the Green.

This mini-brochure highlights key elements of Silloth as a unique Coastal Town and makes a case for a 'Special Category Award' relating to 'Local Participation' in the 'Community Garden.'



Silloth-on-Solway Town Council



Silloth's Timeline

Cistercian Monks – stored grain in silos or 'laithes' which were by the sea – hence 'Sea Laithe' later became known as 'Silloth'

1850 – The building of Silloth Docks & Railway led to planned development of the town

1860 – Building of Regency buildings and broad cobbled streets. Shrubs and trees were planted on Silloth Green

Late 1800s onwards – Well off Victorians saw Silloth as an attractive sea-side destination. Swimming in sea was popular

1920s - Railway brought an influx of new visitors. Donkeys, entertainment such as Pierrots, and Tennis Courts were available on the Green

1939 – Silloth Airfield was built as an operational unit during WW2. Many servicemen arrived in the Town from all over the world

1940s – Green deteriorated during the War Years

1950s – Cheap rail fares brought visitors flocking to Silloth

1964 – Railway closed leading to fewer visitors

1970s – 1990s Increasing use of family cars brought visitors back to Silloth to enjoy the seaside air. Holiday parks and campsites were built around the town to accommodate visitor needs

2012 – Silloth Green re-opens after major refurbishment





LOTTERY FUNDED

Tourism is essential for Silloth's economy. The town's 45 acre Green, situated between the Victorian buildings on Criffel St and the Solway Firth, is the major draw for visitors. Funding from HLF, DEFRA and Silloth Town Council resulted in refurbishment of heritage structures and the addition of new features, as follows:

- Restoration of the iconic Victorian Pagoda
- Restoration of the Edwardian Toilets
- Restoration of the 1950s Rose Garden
- Reinstatement of a Putting Green
- Development of a new Water Play Area
- Development of a small Events Space
- Development of a Woodland Play Area
- Construction of Accessible Toilet Block near the Play Areas
- Improvements to Access and Circulation
- Improvements to Street Furniture
- The conservation of the landmark Pine Plantations
- Signage and Interpretation of the Green's Heritage and History
- Contribution to a new Community Garden on the Green
- Construction of a BMX Track



Local Volunteers Organise Annual Events

For many years dedicated members of the local community in Silloth have given their time to organise annual events in Silloth, such as:

- The Carnival
- Vintage Rally
- Kite Festival
- Music & Beer Festival
- Christmas Lights Switch-on
- Santa Dash



Silloth Tourism Action Group (STAG)

STAG is a community group comprised of local people. The organization was formed to work in partnership with others to support tourism in Silloth.

In 2014, the committee are organising the following events:

- Beach Half Marathon & 10K Run
- Theatre on the Green
- Bonfire and Fireworks Display
- Fusion Folk Singing Evening
- Regular Sunday afternoon 'Gigs on the Green'

Friends of the Green (FOG)

STAG formed 'Friends of the Green,' who also comprise local people.

The group strives to achieve the following:

- Organisation of Silloth Green Day annually
- Finding funds and provision of help to maintain the Green
- Seeking funds and input to the the design of the Community Garden
- Provision of ongoing care for the Community Garden





Adopting a Plant in the Community Garden



Community Garden Opening Day



The Community Garden



