

### Silloth-on-Solway Golf Club

Much of the material excavated during the construction of the docks provided the basis for the golf course. A group of Carlisle businessmen were responsible for seeing the possibilities for a good golf course at Silloth and their plans came to fruition in 1892.

The course was extended over the years, the Golf House was opened in September 1903, and this seaside links is said to be one of the most varied and entertaining in the British Isles and of Championship class.

In 1972 the Club staged its first major Championship - The British Ladies Open Stroke Play Championship at which Miss Cecil Leitch, four times British Ladies Open Champion, at the age of 81, visited her home Club to present the prizes. The Ladies British Open Amateur Championship was played at Silloth on 21st - 25th June 1976 and in June 1983.

### Silloth Bowling Club

The Club was formed in 1863 on a site which today is the Silloth New Dock. That dock was started in 1882 so the Club then moved to its present site.

A feature of the matches played in the early days was the annual fixture with Annan when the Silloth bowlers travelled by sailing boat across the Solway Firth; other matches featured the use of horse drawn wagonettes.

Over the years the club has produced many fine bowlers, prominent amongst these were internationals 'Jock' Routledge, Alan Henderson (under 35's), Mrs E Routledge and Mrs E Haile. The Club has achieved a high level of success in the National Championships over the years. Mrs Routledge and Mrs Wise won the W.E.B.A. Pairs and on the same day Mrs Routledge was runner-up in the W.E.B.A. singles. I Routledge, T Nichol and A Henderson reached the semi-final of the E.B.A. Triples in 1958, while Frank Easton and T Nichol both reached the quarter finals of the E.B.A. Singles in 1958 and 1959 respectively. The Club has won the County Cup on seven occasions and supplied numerous County Bowlers over the years. It had no less than six bowlers in the team which was defeated in the Middleton Cup semi-final in 1965.

The Club purchased a building adjoining the greens and opened their new Club House in 1982.

### Silloth Rugby Union Football Club

The Club was formed in 1880, one of the oldest clubs in a true Rugby County. Such players as 'Jimmy' Brough, the 'fisherman full-back' (who became manager of Workington Town Rugby League team), Roy Messenger, Jock Routledge, Ivan Lomas and England schoolboy players, N Cavaghan and J Edmondson, are named with pride by the Club. Mr Aggie Selkirk scored the only try in the final of the Challenge Shield Competition 1922-3, giving Silloth its first win of a major competition.

The Club originally played on Silloth Park where they had a fine grandstand; a crowd of 500 was not unusual for a Saturday match. When this land was bought by the County Council for the school the Club then shared the Playing Field with the Soccer Club and then moved to one of Lightfoots fields beyond the old Gas Works, where they built their first Club House and changing rooms.

The Club plays on the School field now but a new Club House has recently been completed in the Playing Field and they hope to have a pitch on the new Sports area on the old railway ground when it is levelled and grassed.

### Silloth Recreation Associated Football Club

This Club dates from the 1920's. Today's team plays in the Carlisle and District League on Saturdays and they also have a team in the Sunday West Cumb. League. There is a reserve team and an under-14 team. They have some competition for talent from The Grove football team who play in the Sunday League and who share their pitch.

New premises in the Playing Field, built by the Town Council at a cost of approximately £18000 and leased by the club, has Home and Visitors dressing rooms, two separate showers, a small kitchen and toilet.

### Silloth Cricket Club

In the early 1900's Silloth had a keen following of cricket, and Carr's Cricket Club played on Silloth Park in the summer season. A map of 1867 shows a cricket field where the Playing Field now stands, and it is said that cricket was once played on the grass beside the shore at East Cote, long before the sea wall was needed and erected. But when Silloth Park was taken for the building of a new school in the late 1930's there was no other site available and so enthusiasm died. That is, until 1978 when with the co-operation of Silloth Community School a senior and junior team (The Colts) were established who could practise on the school field in the evenings and where matches could be played at the weekends. There are approximately 25 people in the Club at present the team plays in the Carlisle and District League. The Cricket Club, like the Rugby Club, hopes to have a pitch on the new Sports Area when plans are eventually carried out.

There are also Town Ladies Hockey and Netball teams established with the encouragement of the Silloth Community School who allow them to use the school facilities, and though not yet covered in glories are enjoyed enthusiastically by those involved.

Other Clubs and Associations in Silloth:

Brownies

Guides

Cubs

Youth Clubs

Friends of Silloth Community School Association

Silloth Round Table

Silloth Rotary

Silloth Motor Club

Freemasons

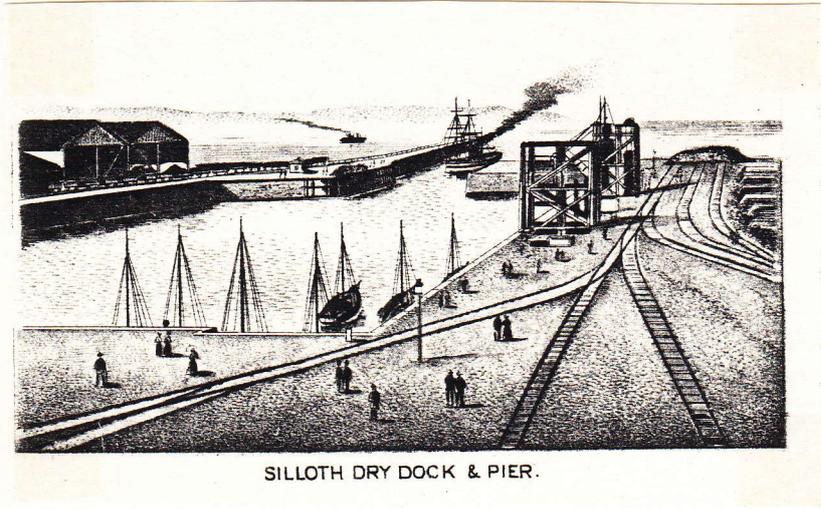
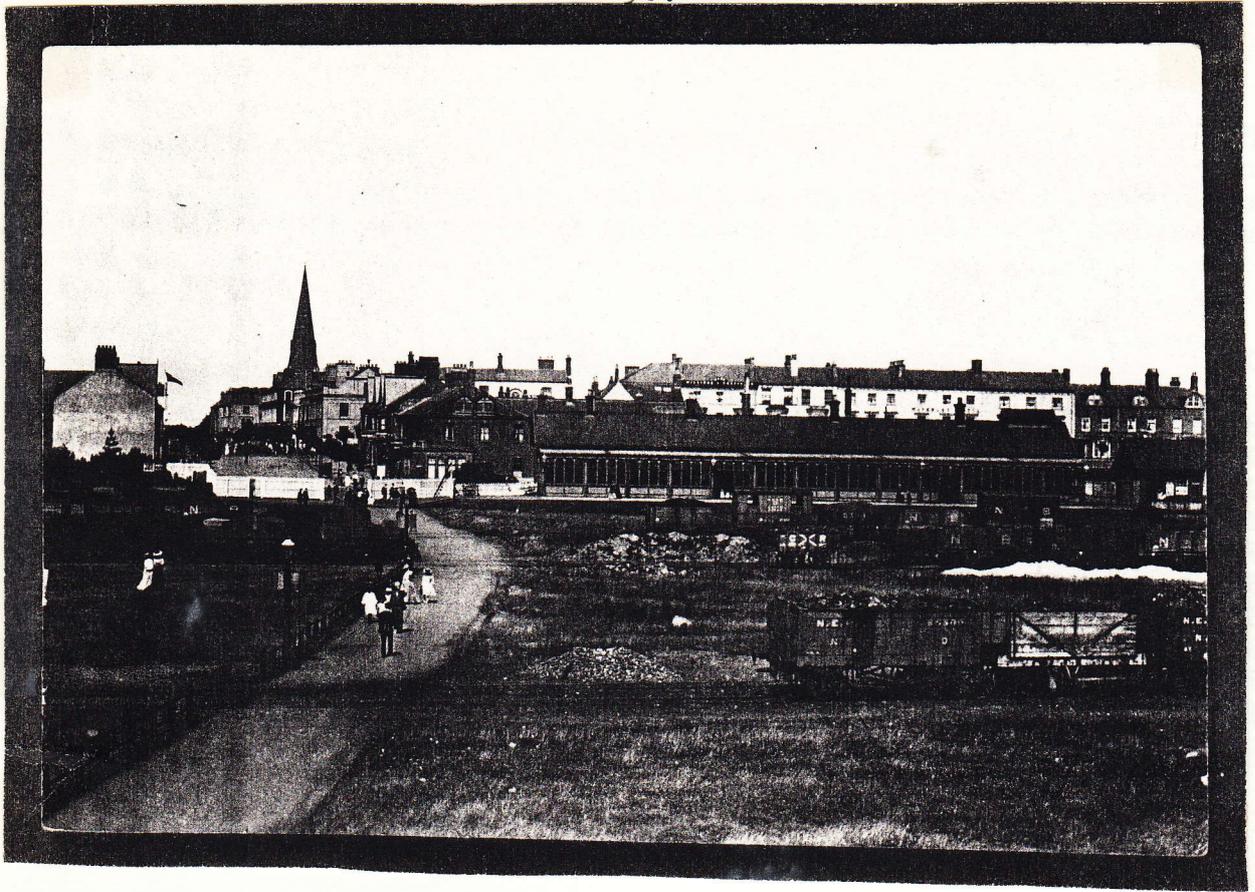
Tuesday Club (a ladies Social Club meeting once a month)



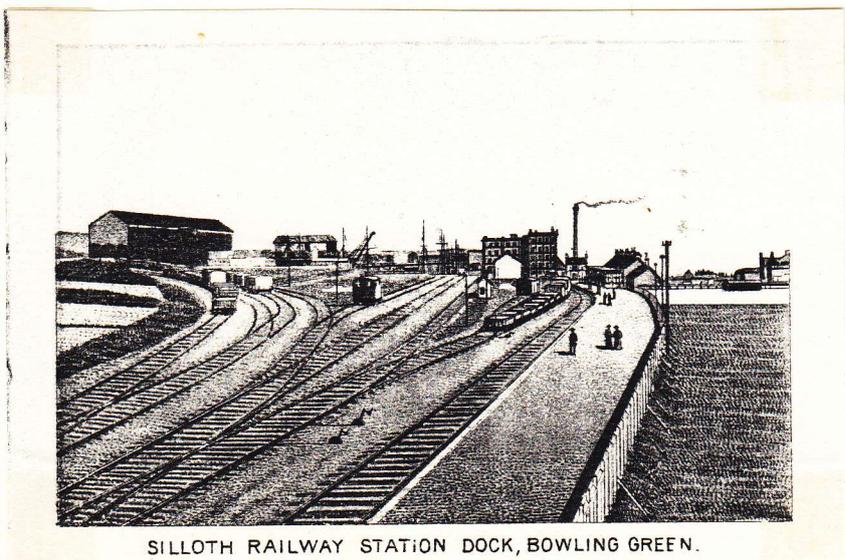
Re-seeded football pitch and behind the new Squash Court, Rugby Club, Football Changing Rooms and OAP Hall.

Flattening out of ground behind the docks for new rugby, cricket and hockey pitches, 1985.





SILLOTH DRY DOCK & PIER.



SILLOTH RAILWAY STATION DOCK, BOWLING GREEN.

## INDUSTRIES OF SILLOTH - PAST AND PRESENT

The Railway

In 1854 a company called the Carlisle and Silloth Bay Railway and Dock Company was formed with a capital of £165,000. The necessary parliamentary powers were obtained, after great opposition, and in 1855 the work of constructing a railway and dock commenced.

J Abernethy Esq., M.I.C.E., was the chief engineer and the first sod was cut by the Right Hon. Sir J R G Graham Bart. The railway connecting Silloth with the Port Carlisle line (at Drumburgh) was completed and opened for traffic on 28th August 1856, the dock was opened on 3rd August 1859. The opening ceremony was performed by the same gentleman who cut the first sod.

A report in the Carlisle Patriot in February 1858 stated that 'for the year ended December 1857, 39,330 passengers had used the railway (average 756 per week) even though the dock was not yet open - the pier was however in operation allowing people sailing to Silloth to disembark directly on to a train'. The same report also stated that the Railway Company had built, or were in progress of building 75 houses on their land in Silloth and 20 - 30 other houses were being built by others on the land of neighboring proprietors, and plans were drawn up for more for the future.

The anticipated revenue from the Railway was £22,000 per annum, but during the first 6 years they averaged only £3,380 per annum. There was much public argument about the failure to reach expected profits through the late 1850's and 60's, as can be seen in the newspaper cuttings from the Carlisle Patriot held in the Archives in Carlisle.

The Railway Company retained possession of their land in Silloth for many years, renting or leasing it in large portions to the local Council who sub-let or sub-leased. By 1944 however, the cost of maintaining paths and sea defences were becoming too great and discussions were started with the local authority for the company to divest itself of these responsibilities.

In 1948 the Railways were nationalised and the Silloth line survived this until its closure by Dr Beeching in 1964.

Fisons Chemical Works

The original factory was built in the 1850's on the same plot of land as a firm called Border Counties Chemical and Manure Works, proprietor Mr A W Crabb, and it was producing chemical manure (fertilizers) under the name of Graham, Maxwell & Fairlie, the name later changed to J & W Maxwell & Sons under which it traded for many years. In 1928 it was incorporated as a Ltd Company, the

firm being known as J & W Maxwell Ltd. In 1942 the manufacturing premises and the company were taken over by Langdale & Northern Fertilizers, who were taken over by Fisons in 1947.

The basic materials used in the early stages of the firm were guano from Peru, nitrate of soda from Chile and sulphuric acid made from copper pyrites imported from Spain, used for dissolving old bones which mainly came from South America and the Crimea. All these were imported into Silloth Dock from where they were transported by railway direct to the factories.

Over the years the largest number of men employed by Fisons was 124, though the average number was 70. The manufacturing process ceased at Silloth in August 1962 and the Plant was used as a store only, employing 8 men until July 1972. It was found that Silloth was 'too out of the way' for the distribution of the finished product and the closure of the railway did not help.

The plant which once covered 21 acres stands in virtual ruins now, though part is used as a breakers yard.

#### Armstrong and Whitworth of Newcastle

This firm was situated on the shore, The Battery House, Blitterlees, and was in the business of testing large guns, mainly military, but it is said they also tested whaling harpoon guns. Amongst those guns tested were those used on the Queen Elizabeth I during the 1914-18 War.

There was a railway line from the town to the Battery House to carry the guns for testing.

#### Blacklock & Carruthers of Carlisle

The making of salt in saltpans was an activity which had been going on for hundreds of years all along the shores of the Solway, the Monks of Holme Cultram Abbey being particularly active in this industry on the English Shore; but it was in 1857 that Messrs Blacklock and Carruthers of Carlisle erected buildings and evaporators at Lees Bank, Silloth to manufacture salt on a large scale.

One of their early advertisements listed the types of salt which they manufactured: stoved, buter, agricultural fishery and the finest table salt.

#### Arnisons Lemonade

Between the two Great World Wars a Mr Arnison, who once worked for Silloth Mineral Waters and had then set up a mineral water firm in Wigton, took over the Silloth Mineral Water business (the latter being mentioned in local directories as far back as 1894). The premises they used is now Blakes Garage, West Silloth, which was mainly used for storage and despatching