

Silloth Sea and Ships

Silloth Business Association, in conjunction with Silloth Tourism Action Group (STAG) have raised money from the Cumbria Community Fund and Allerdale Community Chest to put on a week of sea and ship themed events beginning on Saturday 22 June.

The events are being coordinated by White Rabbit Leisure Ltd of Allonby, a professional events management company, with the able assistance of Mr Nigel Sidaway of the Solway Arts Society.

Nearly every business in Silloth has been approached and most have agreed to hang a piece of art by a local artist in their shop windows. The paintings, photographs and other types of art will come from people from Silloth and the surrounding area. The windows will go on display for Saturday 22 June and will stay up until Sunday 30 June.

Saturday 22nd June

As well as this the first weekend coincides with the vintage rally on the Green. The Grand Opening of the Sea and Ships Weekend is at 11 am when harbourmaster Captain Chris Puxley will officially open the week of maritime events. From 11 am, there will be events down at the Lifeboat Station – including a Jazz band and a painting competition. Please come along and try your hand. We hope to have a Lifeboat on display as a model, though if that gets called out, there will be plenty of vintage vehicles to paint and if the weather gets bad there is a marquee where we will have a shell display by local expert Norman Hammond. There will also be storytelling down at the Lifeboat Station and an evening of Salty Tales at the Golf Hotel from half past seven.

Sunday 23rd June

On Sunday, there will be a Sailors Lunch at the Albion. What this

means is that storytellers Taffy Thomas and Tim Laycock will be at the Albion from 11:30 telling tall tales and inviting all to share their salty stories. We're sure there are plenty of fishermen and old matelots who have something to say about their life at sea and we'll even buy lunch for the best told! At 2pm in the Golf Hotel Ballroom, there will be a children's puppet show called "Stormwatcher!"



Wednesday 26th June

The next big thing is on Wednesday when the tall ship Phoenix enters the port of Silloth under full sail. She'll be coming in about 1pm and there will be a massed audience from the Silloth schools to greet her to the town. She'll be open to the public after that for you to walk around for a donation of £1. At 7pm there will be a brass band to make an evening of it and everyone is welcome to see this beautiful ship – star of countless films and TV programmes, including the award winning series "Hornblower". The Phoenix will be in port all night and she will leave at high tide on Thursday. Radio Cumbria will be broadcasting live from on board the ship at least some of the time she's in Silloth.

Friday 28th June

A musical show – "The Fleet's In!" at the Golf Hotel at 7:30pm. This should be great fun - tickets on the door



Built in Denmark in 1929, Phoenix started life as a Danish Evangelical Mission Schooner. Twenty years later she retired from missionary work and carried cargo, until 1972. She was bought by new owners who converted her into a Brigantine and she sailed to the UK. During 1991, she was converted into a 15th Century Caravel, to replicate the Santa Maria – Christopher Columbus' agship, for the film "1492: Conquest of Paradise". In 1996 she was converted to a two masted brig and was used in the television series, "Hornblower".

Saturday 29th June

Down at the Lifeboat Station, from 11 am – Model Ship display. The model ships will be sailing around in their own purpose built pool. Silloth's very own annual trawler race. This is always a popular event and one of the reasons the Sea and Ships Week was put on at this time of year. The best dressed boat competition is at 2:30 with the race itself at 3pm.

There will also be a brass band and later on a shrimping competition. In the evening a knees up Ceilidh is at the Golf Hotel at 7:30pm.

Windows with art displays by local artists:

Silloth Post Office, 4 Esk Street,
Silloth Community Shop, 12/13 Criffel Street,
George & Liz's Cafe, Wampool Street,
Clive's Shape 'n' Style, 30 Eden Street,
Bowman's Chemist, 1-3 Station Street, Silloth, Cumbria,
Occasions Florists, 13 Station Street,
Cumberland Building Society, 12 Station Street
E Winter, Eden Street
Jaybee Blake Ltd, 6 Criffel Street
Oak Leaf Hardware, 8-10 Eden Street
Baillie's Coffee Bar, 21 Eden Street
Baguette Set and Go Co, 17 Eden Street,
Peter Josef, 27 Eden Street
The Kandy Shop, 14 Criffel Street
Silloth Tourist Information Centre, 10 Criffel Street
Berry & Son, 5 Caldew Street
Christine, Prevatali, Golf Hotel, Criffel Street
Thomson Roddick & Laurie, Station Street
Silloth Clinic, Lawn Terr,
Solway School, Liddel Street
Harrisons Engravers, Station Street

All in all this should be a great week in Silloth. It's the first so come along and support it!