

The Wandering Post Office

The article in the June edition of the Solway Buzz prompted a number of questions. Questions such as who was the first Silloth postmaster, where was the Post Office originally located? And finally how many moves had it had since there was a Post Office in Silloth. After all Silloth only came in to being about one hundred and fifty years ago.

We know that in 1889 the Silloth Post Office was and I quote “located at Ann Sewell’s Criffel Street” and Ann Sewell was postmistress. The hours of business were and again I quote “Open from 7 am to 8 pm. Deliveries, Weekdays 7.30 am and in June, July and August at 7.35 pm to callers. Sundays 3.45 pm to 4.45 pm to callers. Letters despatched weekdays 11.15 am and 3.45 pm, Sundays 3.45 pm via Carlisle. Telegraph business 8 am to 8 pm Sundays to 10 am.

In the same year Mr J.J. Martin was in business as Printer, Bookseller, Stationer and maintained a circulating library at Eden Street.

In the year 1901 Mr J.J. Martin was appointed postmaster and the Post Office was transferred to No. 8 Eden Street where Mr Martin had his Stationery and book selling business. It is interesting to note that in 1901 the times of daily business were not stated. In this year the times of postal delivery were formalised to 7 am, 3 pm and 7 pm, while on Sundays 3.30 pm. Mail being despatched locally at 7 am. and via Carlisle 11.15 am, 4.15 pm and 7.40 pm. The times for Telegraph business remaining as before; weekdays and Sundays.

By 1929 the writer understands that the Martin’s stationery business had expanded to include premises at 6 Esk Street and the Post Office had moved to that address. The stationery business was then under the joint control of Messrs S. & H. Martin. The Solway Buzz article mentions that Mr Martin’s son took over control of the business in 1908, was

that when the move of the Post Office to Esk Street took place?, or was either the Mr S or Mr H mentioned above the son who took over the business in 1908?

It is known that the postmaster in 1977 was Mr G. Armstrong, on whose retirement Mr Greenwood took over as postmaster. Thus a number of questions have been left unanswered. When and where was the first Post Office commissioned in Silloth and who was the first postmaster? Who were the postmasters between Mr J.J. Martin and Mr G. Armstrong, were they residents of Silloth? Finally, were the moves of the Silloth Post Office as recorded above, the only moves in its history?

Silloth’s history commenced with the Act of 1854 allowing the building of the harbour and railway, and if anyone has the answers to these questions, we would have a complete example of local history that could be put in the public domain.

Whilst talking of local history I can find no reference to any authority to build the town of Silloth. Have I missed it anyway, or did the 1854 act imply permission to build or did our forbears just build the town?

Perhaps out of all these questions we may be able to put together a definitive history of Silloth that might help in the regeneration of Silloth and surrounding district and attract the visitors as in the early twentieth century.

Silloth & District Community Transport

The Silloth & District Community transport at present operate two regular services. On Monday all senior citizens are invited to the luncheon club for which the mini bus picks up around the town. There are places available and further details are available from David Pigeon on Tel. 31295.

On alternative Mondays there is a Library service dates are:
 July 8th & 22nd
 August 5th & 19th
 September 2nd, 16th & 30th
 October 14th & 28th
 November 11th & 25th
 December 9th & 23rd

Further details are available from Lawrence Marshall on Tel. 31257 or from the Library Tel. 32195.

Some groups who would like to use the community bus but are unable to provide drivers. If anyone would be interested in helping us to provide a service to such groups we would be happy to hear from them.

Einstein
 by
 Holly Felix aged 8 3/4
 from
 Holme St. Cuthbert School



Silloth W.I.

There was an added Golden Jubilee celebration for members when Fiona Titterington was invited to entertain. She is a 17 year old accordionist from Brampton and a regular prize winner in the junior championships. On June 4th in keeping with the mood of celebration she played stirring English marches as well as music for everyone, lilting Welsh and Irish ballads together with Scottish songs to set the feet tapping.

Such outstanding talent was greatly appreciated by her audience, and Minnie Richardson, in giving the vote of thanks, emphasized how much everyone had enjoyed such a wonderful performance.

The competition for a lyric of four lines, that could be sung to “D’ye ken John Peel” produced some amusing results. The winner Mary Lymer was chosen by Fiona second was Jean Darling and third Sheila Nichol.

Bowman’s Chemist

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