Would More Cobbled Streets be a Good Thing

Report by: Ken Burleigh

I was intrigued to read in issue 45 of the Buzz, from a letter by 'TG of West Silloth', that a hole in the surface of Solway Street opposite the Spar Shop exposes cobbles, presumably like those of Eden Street and Criffel Street. The writer speculates that Solway Street, like Eden Street and Criffel Street, is also cobbled underneath the overlaid Tarmac.

This begs the question how many other streets in Silloth were cobbled. The Ordnance Survey map from 1860, which shows Silloth in its early stages of development shows that like most towns, Silloth was developed in stages. In 1860 only Eden Street, Criffel Street, Wampool Street, Skiddaw Street, Petteril Street, Liddell Street and part of Solway Street are shown. The buildings existing at this time are between Eden Street and Wampool Street and adjacent

to Criffel Street. Also existing at this time are St Paul's School, The Baths, The Gas Works, the Lifeboat Station, The Marshall Dock and Railway Station and the Convalescent Institution. What is now the Eden Street Football Ground, was then the Cricket Ground. In West Silloth only Prospect Terrace exists until you come to Greenrow Academy. The centre of Silloth beyond Wampool Street has not yet been built. To go back to the letter by 'TG of West Silloth' it would seem plausible that Wampool Street, Petteril Street and the part of Solway Street which existed in 1860 were developed at the same time as Eden Street and Criffel Street and would therefore have been cobbled. As TG says the exposed cobbles are opposite the Spar Shop, which was formerly the Majestic Cinema, on the corner of Solway Street and Wampool Street



and is therefore on the old map. Whether the rest of Solway Street, which must have been built later and the other streets of Silloth are

cobbled is unknown.
One thing is certain
the cobbled streets of
Silloth give the town a
unique character from its
Victorian origins.

on any of the weekends

events or the Peatlands

for People project

Nic Ashby/Rose Wolfe,

33055; Norman Holton,

Belinda Lloyd, Cumbria

RSPB 016973 51330;

Wildlife Trust, 01768 212525; Alistair Brock,

English Nature 016973

Solway Coast AONB, 016973

contact:

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Precious Peatlands for People Project

As part of the Peatlands for People project, the Solway Plain area will be hosting a number of exciting event the celebrate 'Cumbria Bog Weekend'.

Deposits of peat, deposits of life and stories. The lowland mosses and raised bogs are home to much of this regions rich culture and character. On their surface, internationally important wildlife and habitats, in their depths, the history of the climates and peoples of past centuries. Once a key part of the lives and spirit of working communities, now relics of past ways and beliefs.

'Cumbria Bog Weekend' 11th-13th August.

Friday 11th August 7:30pm Solway Coast Discovery Centre, Silloth 'Our Precious Peatlands' An illustrated talk by Norman Holton, Senior Site Manager of RSPB Campfield Marsh Reserve.

Saturday 12th August 10:30am-3:30pm Solway Coast Discovery Centre, Silloth 'Precious Peatlands Family Fun day' Come along and find out all about the precious peatlands of The Solway Plain and what you can do to help them...oh yes have some fun too. Activities for children and families free of charge.

Saturday 12th August 1:30pm Guided walk across the peat bogs of Bowness Common. Meet at the RSPB Campfield Marsh Reserve, North Plain Farm, 1 mile west of Bowness-on-Solway village. A 2 ½ hour walk through farmland onto the Common to see examples of the unique flora and fauna to be found in this extraordinary habitat. Wear suitable footwear.

Sunday 13th August 10:00am Guided walk, Drumburgh Moss. A walk led by Reserve Officer Belinda Lloyd around this most fascinating and special reserve, initiating you

into the mysteries of the peat bogs. Meet at Moss car park, Drumburgh Moss, Drumburgh. 3 hours, wear suitable footwear.

Whatever your interests or age there will be something for you on Cumbria Bog Weekend, see you there!

English Nature, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, **Environment Agency** and Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty are working together in the 'Peatlands for People' project to restore the natural wealth of Cumbria's raised peatbogs and link them to the regions culture, economy and quality of life.

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