

Issue

22

WINTER/
SPRING

2016

FERRY NEWS

Compiled by Creetown Initiative Ltd.



Waverley Hall Refurbishment

Work has now begun on the Waverley Hall. It will be great to see the building up and running again, fit for purpose.

For those who don't know, the building is being stripped back to the walls and new plaster, which is insulated, will keep the building warm and heating bills down. There will be a new roof, new windows, a new kitchen, new toilets, including a disabled toilet on the ground floor. The heating system is being upgraded with new energy saving radiators and the floor will be stripped and re-polished.

I would like to thank the funders for supporting the project; Scottish Government's Town

The costs will be kept as low as possible; all we have to do is cover the running costs, but every group or user, will have to pay. If you use the hall you'll also have to clean it after you've finished. There won't be a cleaner or caretaker at this stage, however, depending on levels of use, we may have one in the future.

So, the hope is (weather permitting) to open the hall in June! We are very much looking forward to it and hope the new hall will be supported and cherished by many more generations to come.

I might also just mention the Band Hall at this point. As many of you will know, the hope was to have the Band Hall as the main community building, but the cost of near on £1m proved unobtainable. However, the plan now is to refurbish that building as well, and I am pleased to say that £50,000 has just been pledged towards this project. Hopefully we will continue to make real progress and get the Band Hall upgraded some time in the near future.

Andrew Ward

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Centre Communities Capital Fund; WH Mann Foundation; Sir James Miller Edinburgh Trust; Tay Charitable Trust; Robert Haldane Smith Charitable Foundation; Dumfries and Galloway Council; Garfield Weston Foundation and the Trusthouse Foundation, who very kindly made up the shortfall. Also Creetown Initiative staff, Chris Hanna and Kevin Dodd, who worked very hard to bring about a successful conclusion.

Once reopened, it is essential that we use the building. I am pleased to say that we have bookings for every weekday evening, for the next year. We also have some bookings for social events. What we need to do now is to get people using it through the day and weekends. So, if you have any ideas about day time events, we'd love to hear them.

Membership Meeting

Last year in November Creetown Initiative held its first members meeting in the Gem Rock Museum. Just short of forty members turned up to hear what Creetown Initiative had been doing over the last year. Presentations were given by Jody Monteith (youth work) Kevin Dodd (community cars, produce market and up-cycling project) Chris Hanna (Waverley Hall) and Andrew Ward (Barholm Arms). Chairman Tim Stephenson gave an overview of the year and about the year ahead and what we hope to achieve. Creetown Initiative is a membership organisation and if you live in the parish of Kirkmabreck you can become a member. It costs nothing and by becoming a member you are demonstrating your support for the work we do. **If you are interested in becoming a member of Creetown Initiative please call into the office for a membership form.**

New Websites for Creetown

In the autumn of 2015 Creetown Initiative launched two new websites.

www.ferry-news.co.uk, our primary website, is designed to promote Creetown and all that is going on here, whilst our other website, www.creetowninitiative.co.uk, is purely for the consultancy work we carry out for other communities, charities and groups across Scotland.

The community website, www.ferry-news.co.uk, for Creetown, has a page for local community groups and a page for businesses and are free to use.

If you would like to promote your community group or business, please contact Amy on amydeetighe@gmail.com or phone 01671 820654. You can write about what your group or business does and add contact details or links to your website. You can insert one photograph also.

This is a chance to promote your community group or business for free!

Electronic back issues of the Ferry News Letter can also be accessed from this website, so those further afield than Kirkmabreck

Parish, can keep up to date with news and events occurring in the village. Creetown Initiative also has a new Facebook page, which promotes news and events in the village and provides information about development projects.

www.ferry-news.co.uk

&

www.creetowninitiative.co.uk

NEWTON STEWART WALKING FESTIVAL

The countryside around Centre. The easier of the Creetown and Carsluith will two routes follows paths, once again be playing an farm tracks and country important role in this year's roads to take in the quarries, Newton Stewart Walking Kirkmabreck old church, the Festival. Cleugh of Doon, Kirkdale Glen and Barholm Castle.

The week-long event, The more challenging route which runs from 6th to 12th also starts in the village, May, is now in its 14th year but takes in the summits of and the festival programme Cairnharrow and Benjohn. includes over 30 all day walks and other events.

Another walk explores the farmland around Carsluith, Local routes being offered to finish at the Galloway include two which start in Fisherman café while the Creetown and finish at the rocky outcrops of the café at Laggan Outdoor Clints of Dromore feature

elsewhere in the festival programme. The hill which overlooks Creetown, Cairnmore of Fleet, will also be climbed during the festival.

Joan Mitchell, chair of the festival committee said: "The festival not only offers a chance to give local people a great day out in the magnificent Galloway countryside, but crucially helps us to attract walkers to the area who have never been here before. That gives a great opportunity for accommodation providers in Creetown and Carsluith to benefit from valuable new custom. Newton Stewart was one of the first Walkers are Welcome towns in Scotland and is now part a network of over 100 walking communities across the UK. As well as attracting visitors to the area during the event itself, I know that the festival has been instrumental in attracting walking groups to the area at other times of year – a market which could well be



valuable to the exciting new bunkhouse planned for the Barholm Arms building. Of course, since our wonderful countryside is here 365 days a year, events which make use of our great outdoors can bring year round benefits."

Full details of the 2016 Newton Stewart Walking Festival programme is available online at www.newtonstewartwalkfest.com or look out for the paper brochures in a range of local outlets. Alternatively call the WalkFest booking line on 01671 404500.



The Way We Were...

The Heritage Museum



Some of us may feel our "dark sky friendly street lighting" reminds them too much of the "black out" nights of World

War 2 with its alternate patches of light and shade, but life must have been a lot worse when the lamp brackets (pictured) were in use here. That was before Creetown had electric street lights, and square-shaped paraffin lamps were placed nightly in these brackets to give some form of illumination. The brackets can still be seen in places, eg., in Harbour St., but no trace seems to remain of any of the lamps - unless you have one quietly rusting away in your garden shed!

The Heritage Museum committee met in February to plan for reopening the museum at Easter. 2015 had not been an easy year mainly because visitor numbers were low, no doubt influenced by the poor weather. Once again our saving grace from a financial point of view had been the support from local people in buying the Creetown Calendar, since the proceeds help to offset our steadily increasing bills. Sincere thanks was expressed for all the work Peter Howie does in planning and producing it, and the news that the 2017 version is well on the way was gratefully received. There are still a few copies of 2016 left, so if any of you would like one, please get in touch with Kenny McKie on 820278.

We were sorry to learn that our secretary for the last few years, Julie Turner, has moved to Edinburgh, so it was a relief to know that her place will be taken by Mick MacLeod, who has

paid us a visit and removed the middle of the large Museum sign above the entrance, but a new one should be in place before Easter.

Local History Group

Two meetings have already taken place this year. In the first, Peter Robinson, of the Cree Valley Community Woodland Trust, spoke about trees in the locality. Not simply about the various types of trees we can see, but the way man has used them in building, agriculture and industry, and also about how the remains of trees can tell us much about former ways of life.

A second talk, by Nic Coombey, on Creetown Rocks covered some of the ground we have looked at previously although from an interestingly different viewpoint, and showed how some of the pioneers of geology had studied this part of the country. The talk was enhanced by a display of rock samples which illustrated the complexity of local rock formations. This meeting was accidentally enlivened by the brief appearance of a cameraman and sound recordist who were - we think - making a film about the work of the speaker for the LEADER grant-awarding scheme, much to the disappointment of the audience who thought they might be appearing on local TV!

Finally, one of those winter storms

Kirkmabreck Parish Church

Maybe some things aren't what they used to be about the church, but that's not to say they aren't good now. The days of large Sunday congregations may well be past, but there are other positive things which link Kirk and village. The church hall, or Mission Hall to give it its proper title, was originally built over a hundred years ago as a "school of industry for girls", to keep them off the streets! Now it has much more pleasing links with Creetown in that it is so well used by village institutions. It is home to the local history group, the quilters class, the Highland Dancers, the Woodpeckers (a wood-carving group), and an art class, as well as the church's regular Guild meetings and a handful of coffee mornings. The Museum's committee also meets there whenever it thinks it would be too cold in the museum! The Kirk was also behind the production of that booklet which went to every house in the village listing all the groups and societies in Creetown.

Everyone is welcome at the traditional Sunday morning service at 11.30am - with the inducement of a nice cup of tea in the hall afterwards! Possibly not "the way we were", but not so bad either!

Andrew Macdonald

Creetown Silver Band



The band has decided not to take part in the Scottish Championships this year. As well as lacking players in some key positions, the cost and time in travelling to Perth for a morning start were taken into consideration. The decision was further justified when two key players suffered broken legs and another was ill. Preparations would have been very difficult.

The band will take part in the Galloway Music Festival. Two groups, along with the full band, will play in the adult section while several soloists will appear in the junior solo section. Both these sections will be on Wednesday 9th March in the Cinema. Plans are underway for a concert in Gatehouse and the band's annual concert in the Cinema in September.

Players of all ages will be most welcome; this includes percussionists. Tuition is available to all on brass instruments. Contact any band member for details, or come along and see us at an evening rehearsal at the Band Hall (St Joseph's) on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Stuart McNab

Creetown Charity Tractor Run

Sunday 15th May will see tractors of all ages, sizes and models chugging their way from Creetown to Gatehouse of Fleet and back, all in aid of Coeliac UK. Rather than organise a party for his 50th birthday this year, Stewart Birse of Drumraik Farm, Creetown, has decided to mark the occasion by organising an event for a charity close to his heart. Both his mother Nancy and sister Caroline were diagnosed with Coeliac disease in 1999 and 2001 respectively.

Coeliac disease is a lifelong autoimmune condition affecting the gut. It is caused by an inflammatory response to gluten; a protein found in wheat, barley, rye and oats, and affects the recipient's gut, resulting in stomach cramps, bloating, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and fatigue.

The 36 mile Tractor Road Run will start at the Whiskybroker Ltd., Barholm Works in Creetown at 10:30am and travel along the Old Military Road to Gatehouse of Fleet at approximately 11:45am. They then travel through Disdow Wood stopping for lunch around 1pm and returning through Gatehouse around 2pm. They return to Creetown via Gatehouse Station and the Chain Road arriving at approximately 3pm. Spectators are welcome to meet at the Whiskybroker Ltd. from 2:30pm to enjoy homemade gluten free cakes and a cuppa (for a small donation), whilst awaiting the return of the tractors.



It is estimated that as many as 1 in every 100 people have coeliac disease, however general public knowledge of the disease is limited. Whilst aiming to raise funds through entry fees, donations and sponsorships, the Birse family also wish to raise awareness of the condition.

To take part in the charity tractor run, please visit www.creetowntractorrund.com, email creetowntractorrund@gmail.com or contact Stewart by phone on 01671 820293 or 07811744623, for an entry form. If you are unable to attend on the day, but would still like to show your support, please visit Stewart's Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/creetown-tractor-road-run.

Carsluith Village Hall

Carsluith Village Hall has enjoyed another busy year, with the community run facility welcoming an estimated 4,000 people through its doors over the past year.

A wide range of groups use the facility each week, including carpet bowlers on a Monday, zumba on a Tuesday and a Thursday, both yoga and pipers on a Wednesday, table tennis on a Friday and most recently a gospel service on a Sunday. The hall also hosts a range of parties, meetings and events.

It is one of only a handful of halls in Wigtownshire which has always been under the control of the local community.

Bill Mitchell, secretary of the hall management committee said: "We're delighted that the hall is being so well used. Thanks to a lot of volunteer effort, we are able to cover all our day to day running costs – something that's really valuable these days when so many other community halls are closing due to financial cut backs. We plan to be around for many years to come to serve our community."

To find out more about the hall and how to hire it for your event or group, please contact Bill Mitchell (bill@bagbie.co.uk or 01671 820283). Hire costs are only £7 per hour with discounts for regular users.

Heating Oil



Do you buy heating oil?

Would you like to save money?

Creetown Initiative, working with the Development Trust Association Scotland, can organise group heating oil purchase. To do this we need as many people as possible to express an interest and if we get enough, we can take it forward. Forming a buying group can make significant savings and chances are, you will still get your oil from the company that currently supplies you.

If you are interested, please contact Andrew:

creetown@btconnect.com

or 01671 820654

BE SMART WITH YOUR TEXTILES REuse Matters

So Far Sew Good!

In the last issue of the Ferry News we gave you a general introduction to Reuse Matters, our project to reduce textile waste in this area. The project has gone from strength to strength and now, 10 months later, we would like to give you an update of the project. Many events and activities have been carried out to collect textile and to increase the lifespan of textiles through reusing, recycling and up-cycling.

Upcycling and Sewing Workshops

We hosted 26 free up-cycling and sewing workshops in Creetown, Newton Stewart, Wigtown, Dalry and Castle Douglas, mostly taught by professional textile artists. Some of the participants were keen seamstresses; others were novices on the sewing machine. We transformed many old clothes into different, new and beautiful items like bags, skirts, hats and Christmas decorations, improved the fit of others, or gave them an original twist by embellishing them – having great fun doing it!

"I learned today that I can refashion something and wear it within a few hours!"

"Nothing to fear from tailoring - the workshop opened my imagination as to what is possible!"

"I liked not feeling pressured as there was something for all skill levels."

As dozens of participants to the workshops can confirm, up-cycling can be very satisfying and great fun to do and save money. All it takes is just a little bit of confidence and imagination – the possibilities are endless.

Clothes Swaps

These events, in which people bring in unwanted new or very gently worn clothes to be swapped with others (also known as 'swishing parties' or 'swap shops'), have grown in popularity nationwide over the years. Now the appetite for them is growing in our region too. 'Retail therapy without the £££... what's not to like?' 'Great excuse for a clear-out and a lovely way to try new things and meet new people' is how two of the visitors to our last event in Castle Douglas describe it.



During the course of the year we organised 3 events, in Kirkcudbright, Dalry and Castle Douglas, attracting ever growing numbers of visitors and bringing in hundreds of kilos of clothes that were sitting unused in people's wardrobes. Responding to the many enthusiastic responses of the visitors, there may be many more in the future!

Drop-in Alteration Service and Tutoring

Why is it that many clothes in our wardrobes don't get worn? Often because they're too long, too wide, have a ripped seam or a button missing. To address this everyday hurdle we ran a weekly drop-in service in the Waverley Hall, where Creetown residents could get help with minor alterations and repairs

for their clothes. Local retired kilt-maker and sewing teacher Jeannette Lupton volunteered to share her skills and gave help and advice with repairs, which was very much appreciated by the customers and inspired some to take up sewing themselves!

What's Next?

Apart from the above mentioned activities, there were school visits (where the children learned to make fantastic Christmas decorations out of scraps of textile), free collections, talks and many things more.

Our target was to collect 5 tonnes of textile in the Mid-D&G area (DG6, DG7 and DG8) – a number that seemed rather daunting at the beginning! But – lo and behold – we reached our target, for a great part thanks to the large donation of PUL material (polyurethane laminate), much of which is still available for free for non-commercial use.

We are delighted to report that - based on the success from this year – more funding has been secured to extend the project for another year. For more information about future activities, please follow us on facebook: Reuse Matters Creetown or contact us: jolanda.creetown@gmail.com or kevin.creetown@yahoo.co.uk or call 01671 820654.



This is the space for Creetown's youth, where you'll find out about what the Creetown Initiative Youth Work Team and our local young people have been up to and what's coming up!

Winter 2015 Update

Last October we ran Halloween themed craft workshops and also incorporated upcycling costume making for the senior young people. A fantastic array of 'severed fingers', 'monster puppets' and 'pompom spiders' were created, in addition to spooky costumes! We also ran junior and senior Halloween parties with a fantastic turn out. The Senior Youth Club went on a trip to Edinburgh to Mary King's Close - a 17th Century warren of underground streets and houses. They also went go-karting at Xtreme Karting.

At the beginning of December, Creetown Senior Youth Club (and Newton Stewart Junior Youth Club) went to see the pantomime in the newly refurbished Theatre Royal, in Dumfries - Scotland's oldest working theatre. Both clubs loved the performance of Beauty and the Beast by the Guild of Players and it was the perfect way to round off the year.



Creetown Senior Youth Club

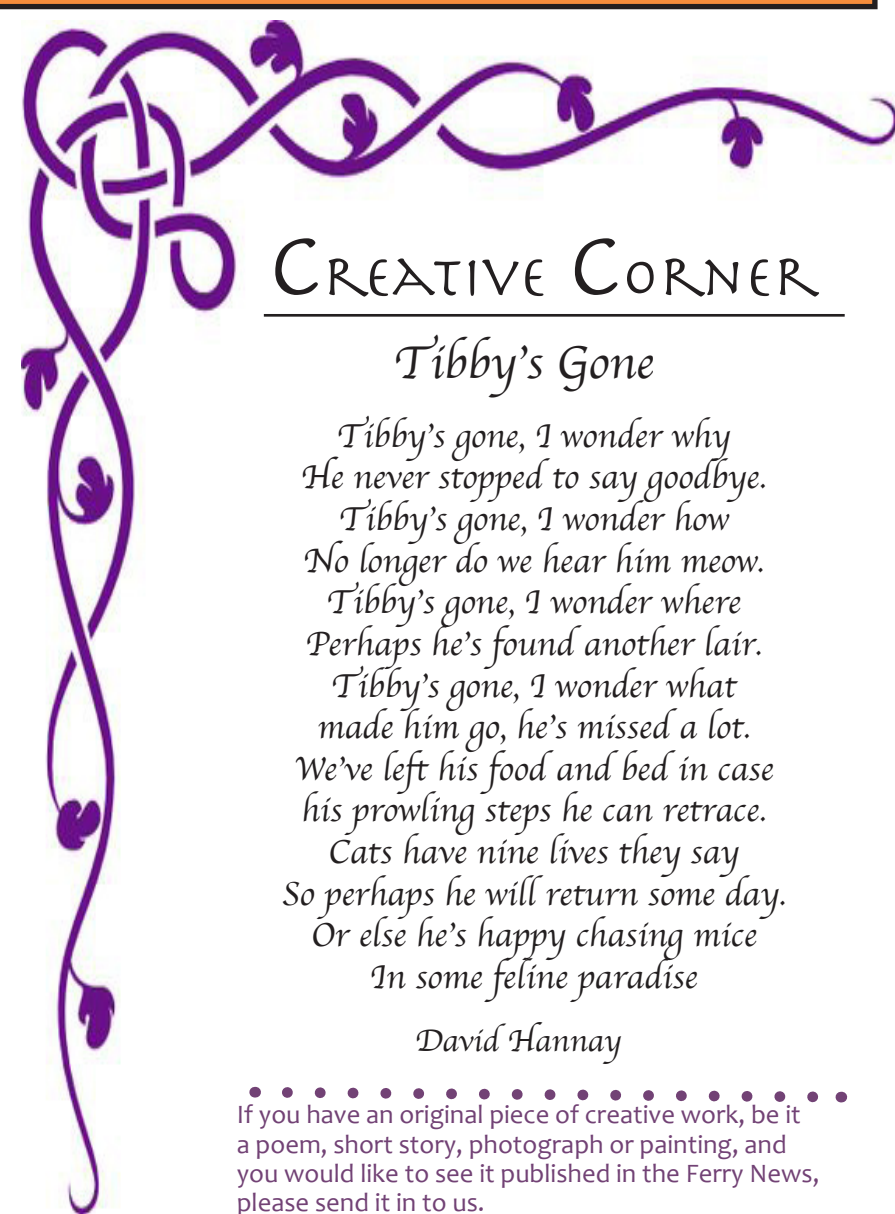
The young people at the youth club have been participating in a variety of different activities, including smoothie making, valentines crafts, pancake making, sports and they also had a 'Nerf Wars' games session, delivered by portable activity event specialists, 'Activity Delivered', from Edinburgh. During March the young people will be composing their own electronic music tracks with specialist audio editing software, lead by sound engineers from 'Sound Travels' in Dumfries. A group of young people have been working on their Youth Achievement Awards and are nearly ready for submission to SQA.

Youth Film Making Project

Our next youth film making project is currently in pre-production by our young people! The theme and style has been decided, the script has been written and we will be holding a 'Casting Call' for auditions for the acting roles and crew towards the end of March. Production (filming) will take place during the Easter holidays. If you are a young person aged 11+ who is interested in acting or film making, then please get in touch with us and keep an eye open for auditions advertised on our Creetown Youth Events and Activities Facebook page!

If you have any comments, ideas or questions about Senior Youth Club or about any events, issues or activities affecting young people, please contact Amy at the Creetown Initiative office on 01671 820654 or amydeetighe@gmail.com. Thank you!

Amy-Dee Tighe



CREATIVE CORNER

Tibby's Gone

*Tibby's gone, I wonder why
He never stopped to say goodbye.
Tibby's gone, I wonder how
No longer do we hear him meow.
Tibby's gone, I wonder where
Perhaps he's found another lair.
Tibby's gone, I wonder what
made him go, he's missed a lot.
We've left his food and bed in case
his prowling steps he can retrace.
Cats have nine lives they say
So perhaps he will return some day.
Or else he's happy chasing mice
In some feline paradise*

David Hannay

.....
If you have an original piece of creative work, be it a poem, short story, photograph or painting, and you would like to see it published in the Ferry News, please send it in to us.



Creetown FC have decided to award our captain, Andrew Houston, a long overdue testimonial. Andrew's name first appeared on our team lists in season 1993/94 at the tender age of 13 and he is still playing for his beloved team. Yes, he is in his 22nd season with one team, apart from three games with Maybole juniors (when our season was curtailed with the outbreak of foot and mouth) and a three game spell with Dalbeattie Star in the East of Scotland league after our season was finished. During his spell as a Creetown F.C.

player, Andrew will have played well over 500 games and so he is well worthy of this recognition. **There is a game on Saturday 26th of March at Castle Cary Park; Creetown F.C Vs Housties Select Team, 3pm kick off. This will be followed by a Formal Evening Event of speakers, music and buffet at 7pm in the Youth and Community Hall. There will be lots of football talk for the boys and a dance and drinks for the girls! Tickets are only £10.** Please support Andrew's weekend. As I am sure you will agree, if anyone deserves this honour, he does. Thank you.

Eric Houston, Chair, Creetown F.C

Testimonial for Long Standing Creetown F.C Player



Creetown Now and Then

Creetown Now and Then is a social media page on Facebook set up in September 2014 for folk whose roots are here, people who have settled in the village and others who have visited for many years and got to know the place and its people. It consists mainly of photos, most of which have been scanned from photos loaned and returned to their owners. Lots of you who left the area some years ago have been able to reconnect with old friends and reminisce about places and people through Creetown Now and Then. Without your knowledge of the village the



page would not have been nearly as successful. To date there are more than 870 people following the page; great for a wee place this size. Some brilliant photos have been enjoyed by many, remembering those in the old school photos, recounting your carefree childhoods and so much more. One of those old photos from 1915 inspired the 'Picnic in the Park' in May 2015, organised by a small group and attended by more than 200 people armed with picnics, rugs and chairs.



If you have some old photos to share then we are planning an evening in the Bowling Club on Monday 18th April at 7.00pm. Tea & coffee available. Please bring along a couple of old photos to be scanned.; school photos, groups, family, scenery, or anything that will interest folk from Creetown & Carsluith on social media. Thank you for your interest & support.

Fiona Blauen

Wheels4Creetown

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Wheels4Creetown is run for the benefit of our community, providing affordable vehicles for YOU*. We have a Renault grand scenic (7 seats), Renault Clio estate and All Electric Renault Zoe for use at £2.95 per hour, or £24 for any 24hr period plus the cost of actual fuel used**. You can have a car for 1 hour, 8 hours, 24 hours, a weekend, a week or anything in-between.

THERE ARE NO OTHER HIDDEN COSTS, NO MEMBERSHIP COST, NO INSURANCE COST, NO REPAIR COSTS, NOTHING.

SO WHY NOT JOIN AND START TO SAVE YOURSELF MONEY

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*a minimum age of 22 and subject to insurance acceptance.

** fuel is charged at cost price.

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6cm x 4cm - £10
6cm x 6cm - £15
6cm x 8cm - £20
12cm x 4cm - £20
12cm x 6cm - £30
12cm x 12cm - £60
1/2 Page - £75
Full Page - £100

01671 820654

ALAN BLAEN JOINER, PAINTER & DECORATOR

HOLMBANK, CREETOWN

TEL: 01671 820458
MOB: 07809713765

Creetown Market

SUNDAY

APRIL 10th

May 8th, June 12th, July
10th Aug 14th, Sept 11th

10am - 2pm

Adamson Square

The best of our regions quality
producers, artists and makers



Open 7 Days

Pre-Easter;
10am - 4pm
Easter Onwards;
9.30am - 5.30pm

Lots of new stock in the shop
and great home baking in the
tearoom!

10% discount in tearoom
during March and April for
Creetown residents.

01671 820357

Did you know...

1.4million tonnes of
textiles is sent to
landfill each year



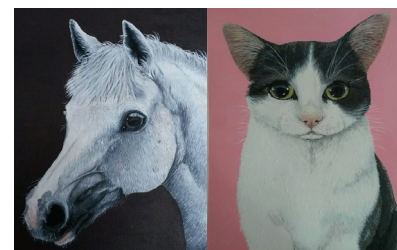
BE SMART WITH YOUR TEXTILES
REuse Matters

Pet Portrait & Wildlife Artist

Amy-Dee Tighe



Unique, original acrylic animal paintings
on canvas, roof slate or board. Makes
a perfect personal gift for someone
special or your own keepsake!



[f amydeetighepetportraitwildlifeartist](https://www.facebook.com/amydeetighepetportraitwildlifeartist)

amydeetighe@gmail.com 01671 820610

Based in Creetown

To contribute to the Ferry News, please contact Amy-Dee Tighe
on 01671 820654 or amydeetighe@gmail.com

Your input is vital so please do get in touch with any news, views, events or advertising.

THE NEXT ISSUE IS DUE TO BE PUBLISHED IN JULY

