



Issue  
23  
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2016

# FERRY NEWS

Compiled by Creetown Initiative Ltd.



## The New Waverley Hall is Open!

Creetown Initiative is very pleased to announce that the Waverley Hall is now open. The refurbishment work has been completed and the building is ready to use. People who have seen the building seem delighted with the work that's been done. Hopefully everyone will get to see inside soon, but if you can't wait and want to see the new hall we are happy to take you around; just call in the office and we'll take you in.

Due to Council cutbacks, in August 2013 the hall was closed permanently, much to the dismay of local residents. The building was in a very poor state of repair and required refurbishment work to bring it up to a useable standard.



In the near future we will form a user group management committee who will meet periodically to discuss how things are going and what can be done to improve how the hall is used. The is a valuable community asset and it belongs to the community, so it will be up to the community to decide how the hall is run.

Finally we would like to thank the neighbours of the hall who had to put up with disruption and inconvenience whilst the building work went on. We really appreciated your understanding and patience.

### Creetown Enterprise Centre

Most people will have noticed that work has started on the Barholm. The building work will take approximately 36 weeks, after which time we hope to have an asset that will benefit the village.

As you may know, the new Enterprise Centre will comprise of an Art and Crafts cooperative shop on the ground floor, which is essentially a shop which people share the running of. It helps small producers by reducing their costs and they can share the manning of the

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Kenya Charity Work



Since then, with great community support, Creetown Initiative was able to secure funding to refurbish the building. The walls have been stripped back and insulated, there is a new roof, new windows, the proscenium arch over the stage has been revealed, there is a new fully equipped kitchen, new toilets, a ground floor disabled toilet and the heating system has been upgraded to be more energy efficient. The floor in the hall has been stripped back and re-polished and new badminton court lines have been put down.

To book the hall please call in to Creetown Initiative office. The prices have been kept to the minimum, with the aim being to cover the running costs and no more. The key is that we use the hall as much as possible, so if you are interested in using the hall please call in.



# Little Creetown Champions!

We are genuinely excited and proud of the sporting achievements of our children this academic year. It is testament to the hard work of pupils, parents, coaches and staff that such a small school has been so successful. Our whole school community are supportive of our success and take pleasure in talking about it. We appreciate that some children have enjoyed the experiences of competitive sport and have risen to their own individual challenges.



Our triumphant year started in September with a win in the Machars Rugby World Cup; followed by success at the Machars and Wigtownshire badminton competitions; winning the Whithorn basketball tournament in March; individual and school success at the Machars Cross Country; then we won the Badminton Challenge against Port William; we had a double league win in June, taking the Machars football and netball titles and an individual fairplay award. The year culminated in individual

medals (3 gold and 1 bronze) at the Machars Sports Athletics Championships in addition to the school taking the overall title. Also, two children represented the school at the Regional Badminton Championships in Dumfries, one of whom was given the opportunity to represent Dumfries and Galloway in Perth.



Our success has not been limited to the sporting arena since we also won the Prose Reading Quach, the Wigtown Medical Practice trophy and the Rose Reading Quach at the Galloway Music Festival where our individual prose readers, Scots verse recitals and music making group placed within the top three.

As a school community we are incredibly proud of all of our children who strive to do their best and always meet challenges with enthusiasm and great sportsmanship, whether they win or lose. We certainly do embody the school's motto of TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More.

Julie Parkinson  
Creetown Primary School

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shop whilst having their goods on display permanently. The Arts and Craft market in Dumfries and Galloway is now bigger than Forestry and Fishing combined, and a number of local people have expressed an interest in being part of this. Indeed we took a number of them to see a similar operation in the Borders a while back, so they could see how it might work. The Arts and Crafts shop will be a great tourist attraction and will encourage increased footfall into our village, which will also benefit existing businesses. Similarly, the bunkhouse of the upper floors will also attract more people into the village. The bunkhouse will offer no frills accommodation, for people who are looking for the basic accommodation, for example; cyclists, walkers.

There will be a laundrette on site and the cycling project will operate from there, as will the electric car. There will also be a small work/office space to let for anyone who is looking to start a business or maybe expand a small business.

Another idea is to have a charity shop run by and for local groups. In St John's Town of Dalry a small charity shop, hidden away, makes £15,000 a year for local groups in that area; we hope to do the same and will be contacting groups in the future to see if any are interested.

Most importantly, the centre will create three jobs; one full-time and two part-time and will be jobs for local people. The full-time post will be the manager and there will be a manager's assistant/care-taker and a cleaner. In time we hope more jobs will be created. Although we are some way off engaging people for these jobs, if

anyone wants to call in for an informal chat, we are happy to talk about what will be required.

Finally, the project brings renewed life back into an old, fondly thought of building, which otherwise had poor prospects and was heading for dereliction. Currently, the building is in very poor condition, with dry rot and a failing roof being the key issues. The demanding and complex level of work required, virtually made it impossible for a private investor to redevelop the building, as the level of repair simply made it unviable. Furthermore, the Brewery indicated they would not support the building as a pub anymore; again it's simply not a viable option.

So, with the help of the BIG Lottery fund, we are able to give this building a new lease of life with lasting impacts that will benefit the whole community.

The board of Creetown Initiative is immensely proud of the achievements of the Creetown Initiative team. Projects like these above are high profile and very tangible but there are lots of other things which go on in the background, most of which is never recognised. Creetown Initiative is nationally recognised as a centre of excellence and has set the standard which many other community initiatives follow. So we should all be very proud of what they have achieved.

Creetown Initiative board is always happy to consider applications to join it, so if you think you would be interested or would like to know more about the roles and responsibility of being a director, please contact me.

Tim Stephenson  
Chair, Creetown Initiative

# The Way We Were...

This is one of the things I see whenever I walk up Harbour St. for my morning paper. It is, of course, a view of the foundation stones of one of the oldest houses in Creetown, made from stones taken from the shore of the Cree. Further up the street are houses built from local stone as well as others built from well cut granite from the quarries. Quite a history lesson before I even get my paper!

When we were connected up with the gas supply some years ago I pointed this out to the men putting the pipes in and said it might be quite difficult drilling through our cottage wall. Some hours and three burned-out drills later one of the men said, "I see what you mean!" But that's one of the things I like about Creetown's history; you can easily see it or touch it.



It's not something remote like the dates of kings or queens which I could never remember at school. So to some extent I have made up for my school experiences while on duty in the museum, because that's where you can connect with lots of things from former times by picking them up and handling them. We only have one glass display case! You're welcome to come in and see for yourself if you are interested.

## Local History Group

Have you ever showed interest in something and then wished you had kept your mouth shut? I certainly did recently when the chairman of the History Group told me how interesting he had found looking at a folder containing copies of all the original issues of The Ferry News. He said how good it would be if someone looked through them to see what they contained, and then presented the results at one of the Group's monthly meetings. When I agreed, he simply said, "Good. You've got till next April to do it." But he was right, it is a fascinating piece of local history, with regular features ranging from news of individuals, some of which was tragic, to little local snippets which were quite hilarious. And some good dialect poetry as well. It really is a case of "watch this space".

Andrew MacDonald

# Fantastic Sum Raised for Cancer Research UK Charity Head Shave

The Creetown Junior Youth Club charity head shave for Cancer Research UK, in memory of Wendy Davis, was a great success. The event took place on Monday 27th June, with great support from locals, family and friends. The idea for the event was discussed during a youth club

session and two young boys, Tyler Ross aged 8 and AJ Smith aged 12, volunteered to take part. With parental permission secured, the boys set about fundraising in the weeks leading up to the head shave event.

Police Scotland attended the event and praised the children highly for their charitable endeavours and good citizenship.

Local hairdresser Wendy Williamson shaved both boys heads, during which, Wendy Davis' partner, Dougie White, suggested the fathers of both boys also followed suit. Before long Robert Ross and Alan Smith had their heads shaved

and Dougie White and Junior Youth Club Leader Eddie McGaw also supported the cause with a head shave. The next event of the evening, much to the enjoyment of all the spectators, was Eddie McGaw's back wax. The Junior Youth Club members were encouraged to remove the wax strips too! There were plenty of activities taking place throughout the evening to raise even more funds for Cancer Research UK. The Stranraer African Drummers entertained the crowd, Robert Ross Snr and his wife Anne ran a stand up bingo and there were burgers and refreshments on sale, with all proceeds going to the charity. The total money raised between head shave sponsors and activities on the night is £2,157.20, which is a fantastic amount and everyone involved should be congratulated.



# BE SMART WITH YOUR TEXTILES REuse Matters

Reuse Matters was down-to-earth and practical in July: the clubhouse of Creetown Football Club is now a lot more comfortable with reclaimed, re-upholstered bench cushions. Many thanks, volunteers Jeanette Lupton and Betty Houston, for your help. Go Creetown!



Reuse Matters also set up 'home' at the Kirkcudbright Arts and Crafts Trail in the Cochran Hall from 29th July to 1st August. Lots of fun conversations with locals and holiday makers alike and upcycling, refashion and repair demos and workshops, made for a brilliant, jam-packed four days! Many people went away inspired to try out their own upcycling projects at home. "I can't wait to go home and get my scissors out", one lady said - now that's the spirit! We hope to be back at next years Arts and Crafts Trail.



There's lots more happening over the next few months too!

Jolanda will be at Gracefields Arts Centre in Dumfries:

- ~ 6 & 12 August - Upcycling techniques demo and examples of upcycled items
- ~ 3 September - Clothes Swap 11:30am - 1:30pm
- ~ 6 September - Workshop: Working with T-Shirts 1:30pm - 4:30pm
- ~ 7 September - Workshop: Jeans and trousers 1:30pm - 4:30pm
- ~ 8 September - Workshop: Dresses and tunics from used garments 1:30pm - 4:30pm

~ 9 September - Workshop: Embellishing and refashioning fitted jackets by textile artist Rose Hall 1pm - 4:30pm

And we will also be at Stranraer Library:

- ~ 16 September - Clothes Swap 1pm - 3pm
- ~ 23 September - Workshop: Simple and effective upcycling ideas
- ~ 5 October - Workshop: Reshape and repair; simple techniques to make your clothes last longer by textile artist Linda Woodfield
- ~ 2 November - Workshop: Refashioning and embellishing to revive your old clothes with textile artist Linda Woodfield

All workshops and events are free, but it is best to book in advance. For more information or to book, please contact Jolanda on 01671 820654, jolanda.creetown@gmail.com or pop into the Creetown Initiative office.

## Kirkmabreck Parish Church

Some people might think that the church's Guild is simply "that group that puts on a coffee morning from time to time" and organises a Scots Night in January, but it's a bit more than that. The Guild meets once a fortnight on a regular basis usually with a visiting speaker talking about something interesting like the "Blood Bike" service, (which delivers all sorts of things urgently needed in hospitals), or climbing Kilimanjaro for charity, or Eddie McGaw's voluntary work in Kenya as well as helping to raise money for good causes. Kirkmabreck Guild works with the general Guild movement throughout Scotland which selects two or three charities every year for support. It is, in fact, one of the biggest fund-raising organisations in Scotland and the local group is quietly proud to belong to it. Not surprisingly, the local Guild is very pleased with the backing and help it gets from lots of folk in Creetown.

## Help Keep Creetown Tidy!

You may have noticed that Creetown has recently been suffering from an unsightly growth of weeds and overgrown hedges. Council funds have been cut and cannot stretch to covering all of the maintenance it once undertook on a regular basis. **If we want to keep up the appearance of the village we should roll up our sleeves and do it ourselves!**

If you are interested in joining a working group, please contact **Lorraine Thomson** or pop into the Creetown Initiative office.

# 'Tractorriffic' Success for the Creetown Charity Tractor Run!



On a beautiful spring morning on Sunday 15th May, 66 tractors of all ages and sizes and their drivers gathered at the Whisky Broker yard in Creetown to take part in a charity tractor run, in aid of Coeliac UK.

A cause close to his heart, organiser Stewart Birse of Drumraik Farm, Creetown, wanted to mark his 50th Birthday by raising funds and awareness of Coeliac disease; a condition that affects both his mother and sister. Well, he has achieved that and more, by raising over £3500, with donations still coming in.

Drivers ranged in age from 17 to over 70, both men and women and some were seasonal tractor run enthusiasts whilst others had never taken part in anything of the sort before, however everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day. The large convoy started in Creetown at 10am to a cheering crowd of supporters and travelled along the Old Military Road to Gatehouse of Fleet, through Disdow Wood and then stopped for lunch. They returned to Creetown via Gatehouse Station and Chain Road at 3pm.

"The support from the people of Creetown and Gatehouse of Fleet was overwhelming; waving tractors on and coming up to see the tractors and sample the gluten free baking," said Stewart Birse. "Feedback from those who took part has been fantastic - many said it was the most scenic route that they have been on."

## Cycle4Life



You may have had your bike some time now and it could be out of its warranty. It might not run quite as efficiently as it used to, it 'doesn't feel quite right', or you would simply like us to give it a health check.

We offer FREE servicing. You only pay for any new parts required. Get in touch with Kevin at the Creetown Initiative office or phone 01671 820654 and get cycling again!

## Creetown Silver Band



The band hopes to be playing at the Creetown Gala in August. Other engagements are:

- Gatehouse songs of praise at 6pm on 31st July
- Harbour service at the Isle of Whithorn 21st August 6.30pm
- Band concert in Newton Stewart cinema on 25th September.

The new session for juniors and beginners of all ages will start at the end of August. Anyone interested should contact any band member for further information. You can also find us on Facebook! Remember that you can become a friend of the band which entitles you to regular updates on the band and free entry to a concert each year. Once again contact a band member for further details.

Stuart McNab



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!

**Spring/Summer 2016 Update**

Our local young people have had a busy summer, with a varied programme of activities aimed mainly for ages 8 - 17, with a couple of activities for slightly younger children. The young people have participated in gymnastics workshops lead by Kendall Clark from the Merrick Leisure Centre, 'Bubble Football' (players were strapped inside a giant inflatable zorb and played football) provided by a Glasgow-based company, basketball, badminton, performing arts lead by Sara-Leigh Cain from Gatehouse Bunkeroos Performing Arts group, painting with acrylics on canvas workshop and also a day trip to the Sky TV studios to take part in a hands on skills workshop where the young people created their own news reports.



Newcastle Trip - outside hostel (above), print making (below)



Fun at the Sky TV Skills Academy Studio

**Senior Youth Club Newcastle Residential Trip**

Thanks to funding from Children in Need and the BIG Lottery's Young Start fund, our youth work team were able to organise a week-long residential trip to Newcastle

**Thank you to the Church!**

Creetown Senior Youth Club would like to say a big THANK YOU to Kirkmabreck Parish Church for their very kind donation to their youth club. The young people will decide as a group how to spend the money!

**Senior Youth Club - New Day, New Venue!**

Creetown Senior Youth Club will be changing venue - after the summer holidays we will be meeting in the newly refurbished Waverley Hall on Tuesday evenings during term time 7pm - 9pm. It will continue to be for young people in S1 - S6/college up to the age of 17 and we will still be able to carry out all our usual activities and hopefully some new ones!

**Youth Badminton Club**

Badminton Club will resume in September on Fridays in the Waverley Hall. 6pm - 7pm ages 5 - 9, 7pm - 8pm (sometimes later) for ages 10 - 17.

**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

**Carsluith: Then and Now Exhibition**

Carsluith Village Hall was the venue for an interesting temporary exhibition and audio-visual presentation about the village. Entitled Carsluith: Then and Now, it was a celebration of the village past and present.



The free event took place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August from 1pm to 5pm daily, as part of the Creetown Gala week of events. Refreshments with home baking were served over the weekend and over 250 people attended the exhibition.



Photo - A view of Carsluith in 1937, showing the village hall and Bridge Cottage, both still standing today, along with the cottages destroyed during a quarry blast in 1939

One of the organisers, Carsluith resident, Joan Mitchell explained: "We wanted to put together an event that not only explored some of the key historical themes of the village, but linked these with the community we see today. While some aspects of life in Carsluith have changed considerably over the years, there are other areas which, 50 or 100 years on, look very familiar."

"We were grateful to everyone who came along and who were so engaged in the exhibition."

**Sixth Year of Kenya Charity Work**

Since 2011, Eddie McGaw and other local people have made yearly trips to help and work with children and families of Nakuru, Kenya. Initially Eddie visited this area of Kenya with the Celtic FC Charity Fund and, after Celtic FC stopped going in order to be able to carry out charity work in other areas, Eddie was driven to continue to visit the same town of Nakuru; helping the children and families he now knows well. Busily planning his 6th trip, Eddie took time out to share with us some stories of last years 2-week trip.

Eddie carries out a lot of his charity work from St. Jerome's Orphanage and the Walk Centre; a school attended by children from the local slum. These children only have 2 meals a day, 6 days a week. 1 out of 5 children have HIV.

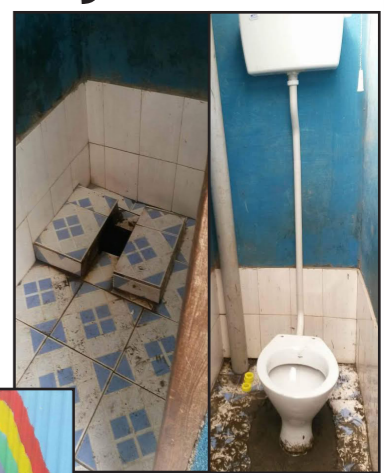
Sanitation is poor at the school, with only holes in the ground for toilets, so the team installed new, flushing toilets. In 2014 they installed a washbasin; both facilities helping to stop the spread of

disease. They also installed a climbing frame, provided new shoes, lots of new clothes and meals of chips (which the children had never eaten before) and turkey for 200 children. The children of the Walk Centre were given new swings and slide and a freezer. At the orphanage, dolls, teddies and sports equipment were given to the children, in addition to a fridge.

In recent years the team have been working to improve the housing of people at the dumpsite, who have been living under plastic sheets and branches, or in caves lined with plastic bags. Tin sheds have been built, providing essential shelter and cleanliness.

"The smell of the dumpsite was inhumane", recounts Eddie, "it was incredibly dirty and full of flies and stale water puddles everywhere. Pigs were left to walk around freely, to help control disease to some extent as they eat some of the rubbish. It was a heartbreaking sight."

All of this work would not have been possible, were it not for the generosity of local people, businesses, organisations and schools. "Without your help, we can't do what we do," said Eddie, "so thank you." Anybody interested in going on next years trip should contact Eddie McGaw.



Above left: rudimentary hole Above right: new flushing toilet



Above: toys donated by Creetown Primary Below: new fridge for orphanage



Above: very basic shelter Below: new tin house






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BE SMART WITH YOUR TEXTILES

## REuse Matters

### UPCOMING EVENTS!



**@ Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries**

**6 & 12 August** - Upcycling techniques demo

**3 September** - **CLOTHES SWAP** 11:30am - 1:30pm

**6 September** - WORKSHOP: working w. T-shirts 1:30pm - 4:30pm

**7 September** - WORKSHOP: jeans & trousers 1:30pm - 4:30pm

**8 September** - WORKSHOP: dresses & tunics 1:30pm - 4:30pm

**9 September** - WORKSHOP: Embellishing & refashioning fitted jackets by textile artist Rose Hall 1pm - 4:30pm

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**2 November** - Workshop: Refashioning & embellishing to revive your old clothes with textile artist **Linda Woodfield**



**All workshops and events are free.**  
For more information or to book, please contact Jolanda:  
**01671 820654**  
[jolanda.creetown@gmail.com](mailto:jolanda.creetown@gmail.com)  
pop into the Creetown Initiative Office.



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**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 NOVEMBER

