

Issue

25

Spring

2017

FERRY NEWS

Compiled by Creetown Initiative Ltd.

Barholm To Reopen



We are pleased to announce that the redevelopment of the Barholm Centre is very nearly complete. We have begun the process of acquiring staff for the centre - the first of which being the Manager. We are delighted with the response from local people and hope to appoint this position very shortly. The positions of Assistant Manager and Housekeeper, both of which will be part time, will be advertised at the end of May/ beginning of June.

The Centre will have a shared retail space for artists and crafts makers on the ground floor, a 29 bed bunkhouse on the upper floors, a small laundrette,



bicycle hire and repairs service, car hire and electric car hire, workshop/office space to rent and there will also be a charity shop.

The charity shop will be open to all local community groups to help run and obtain an income for their groups from product sales. The Centre Manager, once appointed, will be getting in touch with all local groups to establish how this will operate.

We have had an enquiry from a new local business to take over one of the units, which we are delighted with.

We hope the Barholm Centre will be open by the end of June, or beginning of July.

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Delp Carsluich Hall

Gala Gives Generously

After the great success of the Gala last year we decided it was only right for us to give back to the village. We have tried to support some of the local groups. We started by doing a bingo fundraiser to help

Creetown Primary to purchase a new football kit after the successful sporting year the pupils had in 2015/16. Their current kit was very old and we felt that they deserved a new one. We raised £500 for them. The school also received money to get the children presents for their Christmas party. The younger children in the village who attend the Parent and Toddlers group



received chocolate selection boxes when Santa came to visit. We helped the senior citizens have their Christmas dinner. The Junior Youth Club received a cheque for £150 for whatever they needed. Some money was donated to Paula Herries' Highland Dancers to get them to Disneyland for the International Gathering of Highland Dancers.

We would like to thank everyone for their support year after year. Any new ideas for what people would like to see during Gala Week would be greatly appreciated.

Nicola McCartan, Creetown Gala



Local Horse Rescue Centre Celebrates First Year

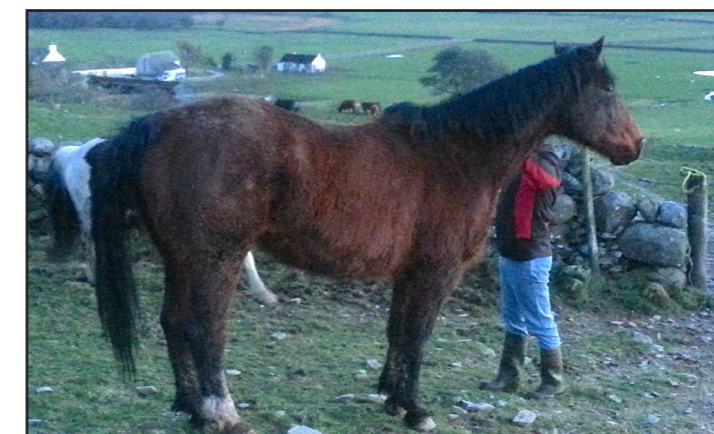


This spring marks the first year anniversary of The 3 R's Horse Rescue Centre, located between Kirkdale House and Laggan Outdoor. The 150 acres Rescue Centre has taken in 61 rescued horses and ponies from all corners of the UK and within the past year, 21 horses have been successfully rehabilitated and rehomed to lovely new owners.

Susan Murdoch and Gordon Chisholm, who set up the rescue centre, use a common sense and natural approach to working with the horses and ponies. On arrival at the centre some horses display extreme behaviour or appear 'shut down' due to neglect, malnourishment, ignorance and sometimes even abuse.

"We have seen some sights over the past year", recounts Susan, "but generally with care, proper management and time, these horses begin to thrive again. That's where the name for our centre came from; the 3 R's stand for Rescuing, Rehabilitating and Rehoming horses and ponies."

One of the success stories of the rescue centre is Patrick, a 12 year old Cleveland Bay horse who arrived very malnourished and ill, with poor teeth, after his owner had died and he had been left to fend for himself. After a phone call, Susan and Gordon rescued Patrick and slowly began rehabilitating him. Last year he became The Cornets Horse at the Wigtown Riding of the Marches and now also takes part in the Horse Play Sessions, to help calm other horses and people.



Above: Patrick on arrival, Above Right: Patrick now



Volunteers are the life-blood of the rescue centre, as the running of the centre relies totally on the donation of time and money. Where appropriate, volunteers are encouraged to assist with the rehabilitation programmes of the horses. This could be via groundwork; learning how to communicate and care for the animals, or through 'Horse Play Sessions', which

run from the arenas and encourage participants and the horses to work together to achieve a goal. This could be as simple as being able to touch a wary horse's head, or tackling an obstacle course. Often the volunteers benefit as much as the horses from this work, by learning new skills, relieving personal feelings of stress, anxiety or depression, or simply just being around an animal.

"We have volunteering opportunities for all ages", explains Susan, "either helping us rehabilitate the horses, learning horse care and management, or helping with other duties on the farm which benefit the horses and ponies, such as rebuilding walls, tidying the yard and fields, or even land management. Visitors are welcome to the centre to have a look around and meet some of the horses - just give us a call!"

If you are interested in becoming involved in the 3 R's Horse Rescue Centre, would like to adopt one of the rescue horses, fancy a visit or would like to donate, please:

Phone **07876593868**
 Email **3rshorserescuecentre@mail.com**
 Facebook **@3RsHorseSanctuary**
 Twitter **@TheMane3Rs1**
 Website **www.3rshorserescuecentre.com**



Wild Film Festival - Youth Film Making

Our youth wild life film making workshops were hugely successful and the young people (aged 13 - 18) filmed on location at Murray's Monument, Cairnsmore of Fleet National Nature Reserve and also the wild goat park. They then edited the footage together on professional editing software and produced an 8 minute 'Countryfile' style documentary, which was screened at the Wild Film Festival Scotland in Dumfries in March and received high praise from the professional film makers and producers who attended. There will be a screening of this film and other recently made youth dramas here in Creetown in June - look out for the posters and be sure to come along!

Senior Youth Club

During Senior Youth Club sessions, the young people have taken part in a variety of activities, including mini bake-offs, debating sessions, sexual health education with nurse Alison from the NHS, health focus groups led by a fourth year university student, indoor football, indoor curling, a driving simulator session, arts and crafts projects and a science themed ceilidh!

Easter and Youth Sports

During the Easter holidays we ran an Easter Egg Hunt for all children, young people and families, with a trail around the whole village and we had a fantastic turn out! Sainsbury's in Newton Stewart kindly donated 80 Easter Eggs and The Co-op also donated some. We're so lucky to have community-focused shops nearby.

During Friday Night Sports we have run blocks of basketball, football, boxercise, volleyball, dodgeball and badminton workshops. These sessions are open to all children aged 5 - 8 in the juniors and 9 - 17 in the seniors and new members are always welcome!



The Way We Were...

Heritage Group

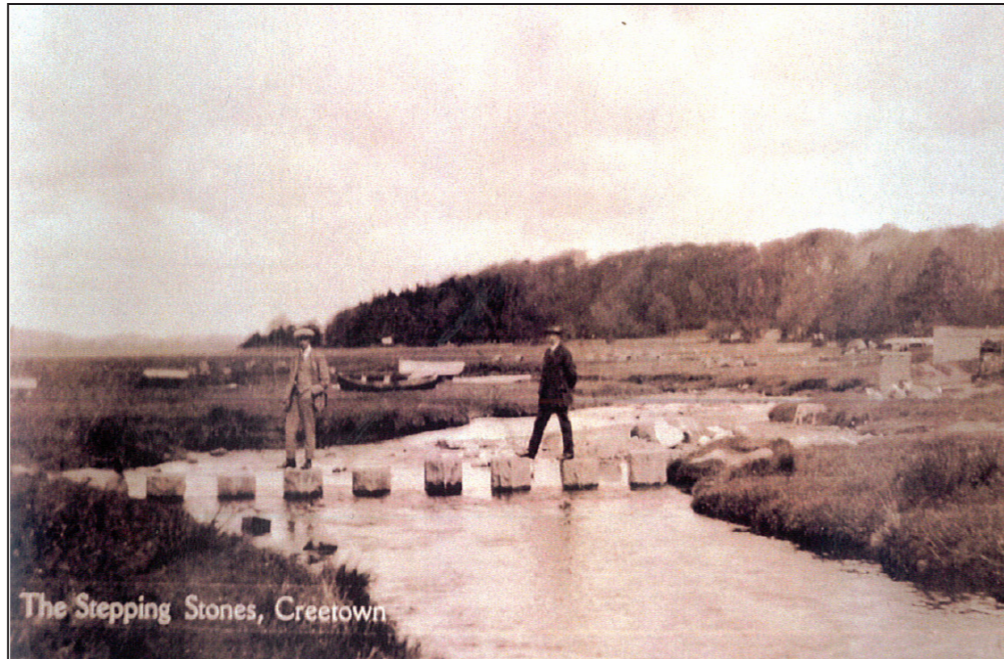
Most people making their way to the shops from Loudon Place or Grimshawe Terrace will have got used to the replacement of the footbridge over the Balloch Burn. Certainly push chairs and the like can cross with ease now in a way they could not have done when this picture was taken in the 1930's, when stepping stones preceded the footbridge.

Our late local historian, John Cutland, maintained this was the original way into the Ferrytoon of Cree from the south. That route is now the footpath from the service station over the field, past the remains of the "Ferry Thorn" and the old fish-house and ending at the footbridge end of Grimshawe Terrace. Those of you who walk it will no doubt know where the remains of the old pack-horse bridge over the wee burn (which flows out of the Balloch Wood) are. For some unknown reason the burn now flows round the bridge rather than under it.

The Heritage Museum is open again for the season after receiving a good clean up and face lift by committee members. As well as getting a thorough spring clean, the entrance hall has been re-painted, the main hall carpeted, quite a lot of new material displayed, and the window display changed to show how the whole project started as a photographic collection, before moving into the present premises in 1997. A nice way to celebrate a twentieth birthday!

Local History Group

Either this group is particularly successful, or it provides good refreshments after each meeting, because it certainly is well attended with numbers usually in excess of thirty! Topics this year include Kirkdale House, with David Hannay talking about how it was built, who by, and how it was financed. This was followed by Janet Brennan speaking on a similar subject, Barholme House, (not the castle). This used to stand where



the open farm was, but, like many old buildings in a poor state of repair after World War 2, it was demolished due to the extent of dry rot in it. The third meeting of the term was about the original Ferry News Letter, which was a publication sent to men and women of Creetown in the second half of World War 2 and was thought to be the only thing of its kind published in the UK. As such it was something of which the village should be extremely proud. Still to come is a talk by John Pickin, of Stranraer Museum, on local mining industries.

Kirkmabreck Parish Church

Easter was a particularly busy time for the church with a number of services shared between Creetown and Monnigaff during Easter week and with a combined churches lunch, in aid of Christian Aid, still to come in May. The church hall continues to be used well by both church and non-church groups and constant support is given to the districts Basic Bank organisation. The Guild has restarted its fortnightly meetings, but has moved to a summer timetable. One reason for this is that it avoids people walking up a poorly lit road on dark winter nights. On the other hand, the fact that Church Brae appears to be getting steeper for some of us just might be nearer the truth!

Andrew MacDonald

Help Carsluith Village 'Bag' Some Funding!

Carsluith Village Hall is looking for your help to secure funds to spruce up the hall grounds. The well-used facility is one of three projects short listed in the Tesco Bags of Help initiative in their Kirkcudbright store.

Bill Mitchell of the hall committee explained; "One of the attractions of the hall is its rural setting surrounded by trees and lovely wild flowers. However, we need to cut back some trees and other vegetation, repair retaining walls and give the grounds a general tidy up. The Tesco Bags of Help initiative is going to help us carry out this work, but how much support they can give us will be determined by

their customers voting in store for their favourite project each time they shop. Voting is open now and runs until 30th June. We'd be very grateful for your support as well as the votes of your friends and family who may shop in Tesco in Kirkcudbright."

The hall also recently celebrated receiving support from the Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation to purchase a set of comfy new chairs for use at events in the hall.

For more information about hiring the hall, please contact Bill Mitchell at bill@bagbie.co.uk or by calling 01671 820 283.

Creetown Silver Band



The band is deep in preparation for its spring and summer season which looks as if it will be as busy as usual.

contact Stuart McNab 01671 402542.

Before that the band will be privileged to act as hosts to the world renowned Foden's Band which will perform as part of the Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival. The concert is in Newton Stewart Cinema on Saturday 27th

Other numbers to note are Secretary Janet MacLellan 01557330814 and engagement secretary Rosanne Service 01671402221.

Stuart McNab

May at 3.00pm. Tickets are available from the festival booking office, the cinema or any band member and are priced at £12.

The Foden's band made a great hit on their last appearance and a large audience is anticipated.

Players and learners (all ages) are still required;



Caravan Park Re-Opens

Creetown Caravan Park has recently re-opened under new management. There is a selection of caravans for hire and for sale and the lovely site makes a great location for visitors and tourists to our beautiful village.

A caravan fully equipped for disabled usage is available for hire and the site is pet friendly. Creetown Caravan Park is located on Silver Street, with stunning views over the Minnipool Burn, the Cree Estuary and the summit of Cairnmore of Fleet.

Furthermore, tourers and tents are welcome on site and with lots of summer deals planned, Creetown Caravan Park is sure to flourish over the coming months.

For more information, pop into the site, phone 01671 820377 or find Creetown Caravan Park on Facebook.



Creetown Primary School News

Galloway Music Festival

On 6th March the whole school took part in the Galloway Music Festival at Newton Stewart Cinema. P1-4 participated in the Group Music Making section and sang "Those Magnificent Men." P4-7 participated in the choir section and sang two songs called The Spider Song and Mary Mac. Both classes received very positive comments and scores from the adjudicator and P4-7 were delighted to be awarded second place. Some individuals participated in the Prose and Scots Verse sections too. Alister won the P4 section by reciting Feart by Liz Niven and Kyle won the P6 section with his recitation of A Dug, A Dug by Bill Keys. We had lots of other children placed in the top 3 but the adjudicators were pleased with all of our entrants.

Sport

Our badminton players represented the school well at the Machars and Wigtownshire badminton competitions. Everyone won at least one game and we were pleased to take home gold (Skye x 2, Kyle), silver (Kyle, Tyler) and bronze (Jake, John) medals. Jade and Kyle represented the school in the regional badminton finals in Dumfries and played very well. Jade was placed fourth overall and Kyle was placed second and won a silver medal. Well done!

Our basketball team played in the Machars competition at Whithorn Primary. They were undefeated having drawn two games and winning the rest but narrowly missed out on victory. Well done to everyone who played so well as a team.

The football league has just started and the netball league will start soon. We are looking forward to defending our titles! We are also looking forward to our Sports day this term.

Scottish Evening

P7 organised a very successful Scottish Evening on 22nd February. P1-4 performed The Red YoYo and P4-7 sang the Lugton Dug. The winners of our school Scots Poetry competition recited their poems; some P4-7 pupils

performed Auld Lang Syne and Flower of Scotland and Mr Muir recited two poems for us. We were lucky that Paula Herries' Highland Dancers performed for us and as always, they were excellent. P7 served shortbread, tablet and oatcakes and cheese during the interval.

Dance

On 22nd March P6/7 took part in the day of dance at Douglas Ewart High School. We learned a few dances, one of which was called the Red Nose Dance which we were nominated to demonstrate. In the evening our dancing team participated in the Scottish Country Dancing competition. The whole team performed very well and received excellent comments from the adjudicator. Well done!

P4/5 Outdoor Education

On a wet and windy day in March P4/5 went to Kirroughtree to take part in orienteering and abseiling. For the cross country orienteering we were put into pairs and we could choose to race against the other teams or just take part for fun. We used dibbers which helped to calculate our time and we punched our cards as we went around the course. For the abseiling, we had to put helmets and harnesses on and we were encouraged to focus on the rope, to lean back and then walk down. We really challenged ourselves even though the weather wasn't kind to us.

Dog Fouling Posters

The Community Safety Wardens launched a competition for us to design posters to encourage dog owners to be responsible and to "scoop the poop." The posters were all of a high standard but a special well done to Chloe, Amber, Lily, Katie, Teri and Brianna who were awarded first and second place in their age groups. Look out around the village for our posters and please do take notice of the messages.

P4-7 Creetown Primary School

Wendy's Purple Stars

Relay For Life is a year-round team fundraising challenge bringing communities together to beat cancer. Teams of family and friends fundraise for life-saving cancer research, then join a 24-hour celebration and commemoration, taking turns to walk around the track through the night, showing that cancer never sleeps, but together, we are stronger than cancer.

Our local team, 'Creetown Gals' took part in this the Relay for Life, Dumfries and Galloway 4 years ago and raised an amazing £2437.84 for Cancer Research UK. We were inspired by the bravery and courage of our Team Captain, friend and cousin Wendy Davis who participated with us as a survivor. Sadly, Wendy lost her fight with leukaemia in January 2016, aged just 46.

In memory of Wendy, some of the original team are taking part in this years Relay for Life as 'Wendy's Purple Stars', alongside lots of new members. The team started fundraising in January this year, beginning with a Coffee Morning in the Bowling Club, a Candle Party evening in the Ellangowan Hotel and more recently a Food Hamper Raffle in Creetown Stores. Creetown Primary supported our team with a 'wear it purple' day in school in March, raising funds and awareness.



'Creetown Gals', Relay for Life 2013

We have a planned Prize Bingo on the 12th May with Rab and Anne Ross in the Waverley Hall and are also hosting a Disco night with DJ Kenny McKeand on the 3rd of June, which will be licensed with Creetown Football Club running the bar.

Once again we have been overwhelmed by the support given to us by our local community and have a current total of just over £1000. **There is a sponsor sheet in Creetown Stores if you would like to make a donation, or you can go online too.** We would love to see as many of you at the Relay Event itself which is on **Saturday 1st July at Bladoch Park, Wigtown.**

Most of us will be affected by cancer at some point in our lives. We know Wendy may no longer be with us but she will be walking with us with her big smile and heart.

Victoria Donnelly



'Wendy's Purple Stars' team 2017

Market in its Sixth Year

Creetown Sunday Market has been running for six years, showcasing the best of Dumfries and Galloway's quality producers, artists and makers. A vast selection of handmade goods have adorned the stalls over the years, including rugs and textiles, jewellery, knitwear, photography, preserves, original art and prints, hand blended artisan coffee, fruit and veg, meats and cheese, homebaking and sweet treats, plants, crafts, handmade cards and even dog treats! It's well worth a visit!

For more information, contact Kevin on 01671 820654 or kevin_creetown@yahoo.co.uk

Creetown Market

Shop Local, Shop Smart

Sunday May 14th
2017

June 11th, July 9th, August 13th,
September 10th

10am - 2pm
Adamson Square

Bingo Buys Beds

The Creetown Bingo Club, run by Anne and Robert Ross, has raised the funding to help pay for two pump-up beds for Creetown Surgery. Founded in 1975, the Bingo Club has helped many local organisations and community groups, including Creetown Bowling Club, Creetown Football Club, Creetown Parents and Toddlers, Creetown Senior Citizens (part-funding the Christmas party), Minnigaff Primary School, local surgeries and they also raised the funding for a defibrillator and thirteen nebulisers. What a fantastic effort!

The bingo runs every Wednesday in the Waverley Hall and doors open at 7pm.




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CREETOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

cordially invite you to attend our

Open Weekend



Creetown Heritage Museum is now in its 20th year at the current premises!

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th May
11am - 4pm

FREE ENTRY including wine and nibbles

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01671 820654

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

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

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PEOPLE TO ADVERTISE. PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL NEWSLETTER.**