

Issue

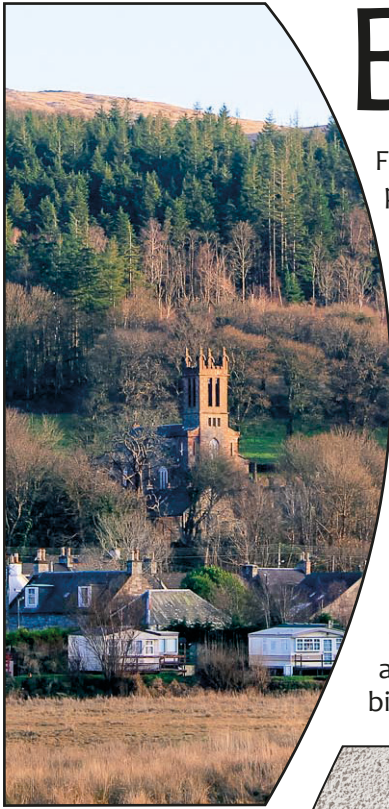
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Autumn

2017

FERRY NEWS

Compiled by Creetown Initiative Ltd.



Barholm is Back!

From a forelorn, treasured former local pub, to a renovated, multi-faceted business with a renewed sense of purpose, it has been a long journey. So, we are very pleased to announce that Barholm has now opened!

Barholm Accommodation offers quality, comfortable, affordable en-suite accommodation, both shared rooms and private rooms. There is a ground floor room, which is fully accessible and dogs are also permitted in this room. There is free Wi-Fi throughout and other facilities for guests includes a wet room to hang and dry outdoor clothing, a lockable bike shed, electric car charge point, car



Inside this issue:

CREETOWN School News

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Davilion Improvements



parking and a communal room with tea and coffee making facilities, a television, cutlery and crockery and seating.

Barholm does not offer any catering and guests are encouraged to use the other lovely local facilities in the village. Barholm Accommodation reception is to the rear of the building - please do pop in to find out more and to have a look around!

“I was very happy to have been offered the position of Manager at Barholm and have loved putting ‘it’ all together – very proud indeed”, says Jenny Adams. “We would appreciate support from one and all, local or far away, getting the word out there.”

(.....continued on page 2)

Creetown Primary School News

Sports Event at Minnigaff

P1-7 participated in a sports event with our Partnership school, Minnigaff Primary. We had lots of fun participating in rugby sessions, football games, triathlon, cricket and an NHS workshop.

Maths Week Scotland

We took part in Maths Week Scotland from 11.9.17 to 15.9.17. We went on a maths walk around the village and saw different signs and posters to do with maths. We also went to the shop, Heritage museum and the post office van. We thought how jobs use maths, for example, the doctor uses maths to know how much medicine to give the patient. Also the Ellangowan uses Maths to know how much a bag of crisps and a can of coke are and to know how much stock they need to order. We made posters and comic strips to explain how we use maths in the community and we entered them in a competition.

Tin Whistle

Primary 5-7 have been learning tunes on the tin whistle. We have learned the notes and a few songs. We have learned Mary had a little lamb, Grand Old Duke of York, Hot Cross Buns and Topa Topa. Ruth and Susan come from a company called Feis Rois and we all really enjoy it.

Football and Rugby

During this term, P3-4 and P5-7 had rugby every Wednesday with Jamie Muir. We have been practising pendulum passes, scoring a try and how to communicate with team members when passing the rugby ball. Also this term, Nursery, P 1-2 and P 3-4 and P 5-7 have been learning football. We have been learning how to score goals and how to pass the ball accurately. Allan Jenkins from Stranraer football club has been coaching us.

P7 Litter Picking

On the Community Day of Change, P7 went litter picking around the park. Altogether they found approximately 1 black bag full of litter. We would like to encourage people to put their litter in a bin or take it home to a bin. P7 were appalled at the amount of litter found in the area. We hope that it made a difference and made the area nicer and tidier.



Orienteering with Mr Anderson

For 4 weeks the P5-7 did orienteering with Mr Anderson. We learned how to set and thumb a map. We learned how to use a map and had lots of fun exploring. We learned what the main points were on a map for example you need a key, title, scale and compass point. Mr Anderson set us a star exercise for pairs. For three weeks we wrote the letters on our cards but on the last week we punched the cards. Sometimes we did a race but it was still fun.



Before and After School Clubs

This term P1-4 have had a Monday morning club run by Rhuri from Active Schools. P5-7 have started an after school basketball club, also run by Rhuri. Everyone really enjoys the opportunity to stay active.

Wigtown Book Festival

P1-3 and P4-7 went to Wigtown to listen to authors as part of Wigtown Book Festival. P1-3 heard stories from Danny Scott and Renita Boyle whilst P4-7 enjoyed listening to Lari Don and Rab Wilson.

P5,6 and 7, Creetown Primary School



Barholm also houses the new Arts and Crafts shop to the front of the building, displaying beautiful hand crafted products from a large number of local artists, craft makers and designers. The shop is run by the artists themselves and there is an impressive selection of artwork, designer knitwear, jewellery, wood turning and unique handmade gifts.

Bicycle hire is available through Barholm and there are bikes to suit all ages. Whether you are a seasoned biker or enjoy cycling leisurely, there will be a bike to suit your needs and we can hire bikes for half days or full days. We also offer free safety equipment hire, electric bike hire (for adults only) and we have newly qualified bicycle technicians who can carry out repairs. Please enquire for more information.

Barholm Community Shop opened its doors on Saturday 30th September and had a successful first day. The community shop is 'manned' by members of local community groups and runs like a charity shop by selling donated items. Funds raised will be split between the community groups participating in running the shop.

All of this would not have been possible without funding from the Lottery and The Robetson Trust to redevelop the building and to employ three new local members of staff to manage the building and run the accommodation, bike hire and charity shop.

For more information, please contact us on 01671 820810, email jenny.barholm@gmail.com, find us on Facebook, go to www.barholm-centre.co.uk, or pop in!

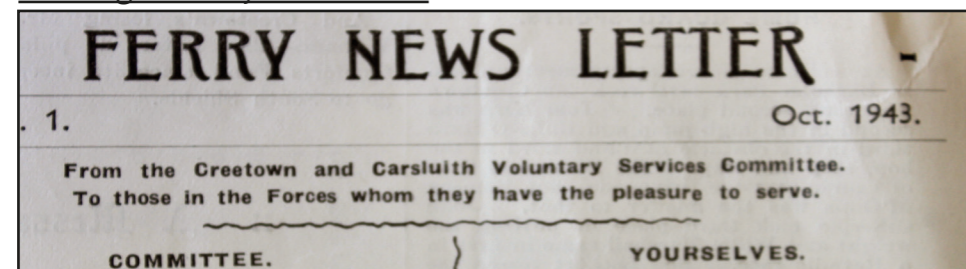


(Top: shared accommodation, Top Right: Arts & Crafts Shop, Middle Right: Cycle Hire, Bottom left: accommodation facilities, Bottom Middle: secure bike storage, Bottom Right: building frontage)



The Way We Were...

The Original Ferry News Letter



What you are reading now is not the first publication to bear the title "Ferry News Letter". That was first used in a letter sent to the men and women from Creetown who were in the armed forces during World War 2. It started in June 1943 and ran until September 1946 and was published quarterly. Apparently it was the only thing of its kind in the whole of the UK, and, without intending to, it made the name "Creetown" known to many men and women apart from those who came from here. The idea came from the Creetown and Carsluith Voluntary Services Committee which was set up to raise money to send "comforts" to local people doing their national service. These "comforts" included such things as scarves, socks and gloves, but also postal orders which could be used to buy a decent meal, if that was possible. The reason the "News Letter", as it became known, was familiar to so many people was that recipients often left their copy lying around their barrack room, and non-Creetonians simply picked it up and read it, or rather tried to, because right from the start it contained a lot of local dialect and spelling which in turn caused no end of amusement among folk trying to pronounce Gallovidian dialect!

The paper always contained local news under popular headings such as "Yourselves", "Snippets", correspondence, sport, fund-raising, and made good use of poetry too. "Yourselves" was the serious content, because it inevitably with the loss of life which happened in war-time as well as with where local people actually were. One example of this was the story of Archie McKie (uncle of the present chairman of the Heritage Museum) whose parents heard nothing from him for years except a postcard to say he was a prisoner of war of the Japanese held in a POW camp in Java. This relatively good news was shattered towards the end of the war when he was put on a Japanese ship to be transferred to Japan only for that ship to

be torpedoed and sunk with extensive loss of life by an American submarine. Such are the horrors of war. The deaths of many other men and women from this area were, tragically, a regular feature of this part of the News Letter.



Killed in Action

You will all have heard with regret about Billy Fraser—reported missing, now presumed killed. He was a "pathfinder" in the Battle of Berlin, and we know that Billy would be doing there, as he had always done, his very best—and his best, as we knew in work or play was a standard which few

As a complete contrast the "Snippets" section contained lots of short reports – nearly all in local dialect – about completely inconsequential things like "the roof blew aff Sanny Smith's henhouse in a recent gale and ended up in Black Craig". Such accounts must have caused no end of problems for the Censors (a government organisation given the power to read any mail posted anywhere and to cross out – in heavy blue pencil - anything which might give away information of possible use to the enemy). One is tempted to wonder whether the Censors would simply have

We read that "smokes" may go up to half-a-crown for twenty. Consequently your editors have volunteered for the Navy.

Rob M'Lean down Kirkdale Port way has three fields cleared of braken and briers, and under tatties, corn, and turnips. Good show!

At 99 Mrs Amelia M'Lean, affectionately known as "Auld Meli," is still hale and hearty, "but the 'bacca's awfu' dear!"

given up on the dialect and thought the enemy wouldn't have understood either!

Between "Yourselves" and "Snippets" quite a lively correspondence section grew up with the editors, and even led to a form of dating agency long before the idea became common. Proof lies in a plea from a lady who wrote to the editors saying, "Can ye no' find me a man?" This was read by a non-Creetonian who promptly plucked up courage and proposed. They were subsequently married in Carsluith Hall!

The newsletter developed rapidly and began to include photos, cartoons and local poetry. This was in no small measure due to the editor, Drew Murray, working for the Galloway Gazette and using his newspaper skills to good effect, but the use of dialect is interesting in that its use in schools in those days was severely frowned upon and to find a schoolmaster and a kirk minister using it freely was unusual to say the least.

Sport is a prominent part of any paper and the newsletter was no exception. Football, bowls, and curling were all mentioned although their coverage was not generally written in as lively a fashion as snippets or correspondence.

The section on fundraising was, like sport, a bit on the dry and factual side, but it does indicate the enormous effort put in by the organising committee, who not only kept things going through a series of fundraising concerts and events but, by the end of the war, had raised a surprising amount to create a welcome home fund for ex-service personnel. Perhaps it was no surprise to find the task was too much to keep going, but the fact that a small community like Creetown and Carsluith could come up with a big idea and sustain it for the second half of the war, is enormously to the credit of all the Creetown and Carsluith Voluntary Services Committee members. Maybe they would have been thankful to see the Newsletter re-emerge as the present Ferry News and to be grateful to Creetown Initiative for somehow finding the money to keep it going. It is a story of which Creetown and Carsluith should surely be extremely proud.

Andrew MacDonald

Creetown Silver Band - A 'Finale' for Stuart



The band's annual concert will be a 'finale' for long-standing conductor Stuart McNab, who has dedicated 34 years to leading the Creetown Silver Band. During his time as conductor he has taught many new musicians of all ages, formed junior bands, visited local primary schools to provide talks and guidance, entered the band into various competitions and festivals, affiliated the band with the Scottish Amateur Brass Band Association as a 4th Section Band and performed all over Scotland.

The Annual Concert will be held in Newton Stewart Cinema on Sunday 15th October at 3pm.

The AGM will be held on Thursday 2nd November at 7pm in the band hall and everyone is welcome. Vacancies exist in all section of the band, as well as in the junior and learner sections. Please contact any band member for further information, or find us on Facebook.



Youth Film Screenings

On 29th June we held a film screening for a packed audience in the Waverley Hall, showing two films entirely created, written, produced, filmed and edited by local young people aged 11 - 18. The first film shown was 'Galloway Winter' - a short wildlife documentary shot on location locally at the Cairnmore of Fleet National Nature Reserve and Murray's Monument, featuring roe deer, lapwings, ravens and wild goats. The second film was a premiere of a short drama entitled 'Losing You', featuring a teenager struggling with bullying, family break down and depression. We are extremely proud of what our young people have achieved as they should be too.

Senior Youth Club

Towards the end of the summer holidays we organised a 'Glamping' trip at Galloway Activity Centre for the members of the senior youth club. The young people participated in rock climbing, zip wire, windsurfing and an inflatable water park in Loch Ken and we stayed over night in Mongolian Yurts - traditional handcrafted tents with flooring, camp beds, cooking facilities and a log burning stove. Very much the glamorous way to camp! After the activities, we cooked our own BBQ, toasted marshmallows and sat around the campfire whilst Erin Monteith played her guitar. It was a lovely way to end the summer, especially when some of our older members were moving on to college and university in the autumn.



The beginning of the autumn term saw lots of new faces at the Senior Youth Club, which is lovely. We also ran a drop in on Thursday nights throughout the summer holidays, which was well attended.

Summer Programme

During the summer holidays we ran a programme of activities and workshops for young people aged 4 - 17, consisting of art and painting, pop choir, multi-sports run by Let's Get Sporty from Dumfries and circus skills lead by Circus Alba from Edinburgh, which also included real fire spinning workshops!

Pavilion Improvements

Two new employees of Creetown Initiative, Panny Watson and Ben Herries, have taken it upon themselves to clean up the pavilion and also the MUGA in the park and give both community facilities a bit of 'TLC.'

"We noticed that the surface in the MUGA is slippery and dangerous, some of the wooden panels are missing and there are weeds growing through," explains Panny Watson. Both the inside and outside of the pavilion also needs to be cleaned up and repainted and Panny and Ben plan to spend some time over the coming weeks tackling this.

"We are employed by a community organisation to try to improve our village for locals and to attract visitors," continues Panny, "so we thought that improvements to these facilities would help to make Creetown a better place for all."

Check back in the next issue to see how the pair have gotten on!

VANDALISM - FEEDBACK PLEASE

Dear Resident,

As you may know the Pavilion has been subject to vandalism recently, including the tennis nets which were set on fire. We have discussed the vandalism with the police and as a result we are **considering having CCTV installed**. However before we do this we would like to **hear your views** on whether we should install CCTV. If you have a view on this, either for or against, we would like to hear from you. You can contact us at creetown@btconnect.com or 01671 820654 or just call in to the office at 54 St John Street.



New Wedding Venue at Laggan



Passersby may have recently noticed a lot of building work taking place at Laggan Outdoor, just off the A75. This is the beginnings of GG's Yard; a new local wedding and events venue built around a 250 year old barn, offering a classic, contemporary feel.

GG's Yard, due to open by the end of 2017, will be able to cater for up to 350 people and will offer a variety of different facilities and rooms to suit all kinds of weddings and events. This includes *The Ceremony Wing* with beautiful stone walls, exposed beams, slab flooring and glass front with exceptional coastal views, a luxury *Bride's Room* complete with full length mirrors, seating and dressing facilities, *The Whisky Room/Snug*, a cosy calming space, perfect for the groom and his best man, or for smaller occasions, *The Grand Gallery* showroom, a light and spacious venue to seat 200 and *GG's Bar* stocked with wines, specialist gins, local brews and GG's cocktails. There is also a lounge and outdoor terrace, the option of an outdoor hilltop wedding and options for hiring decorations, accessories and finishings, and purchasing flowers. Laggan also offers accommodation in the form of 10 Sea View Snugs, each sleeping two or three people with ensuite showers.

Laggan business owners, Duncan and Vicky McConchie, have built the outdoor activity centre over the past 10 years. Beginning with archery in an old cow shed, the business grew and now provides a large range of activities, including the UK's longest zip wire, a human slingshot amongst many others. They aim to bring people and business to the local area and an array of new jobs within GG's Yard has recently been created.

CRAFT & PRODUCE FAIR

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Sunday 10th December 2017

10am - 3pm

Gem Rock Museum, Creetown, DG8 7HJ

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The Gem Rock tearoom and gift shop will also be open all day and there will be free admission to the Museum for all customers on 10th December.

The Gem Rock Museum, tearoom and gift shop is open seven days (10am-4pm) until 23 December inclusive.

Farewell to Good Friends

Many folk in Creetown and Carslith will have been sorry to say "goodbye" to Anne and Ray Sidebottom who have gone to stay near one of Anne's daughters near Cambridge after living in Carslith for about fifteen years. Both were well known in the area and contributed a lot to it.

When I first had a coffee in their house I wondered if they had made a good move considering the amount of smoke coming from cracks in the chimney breast, unless Ray knew exactly what he was doing. But as a former builder and landscape gardener - he did! It didn't take long to transform house and garden into a delightful and welcoming home. Both were keen gardeners, often infuriatingly giving the Latin name for a plant before some of us had even thought of the common one, but at least Anne recognised my own horticultural ability when she saw how I had pruned a bush, as she exclaimed, "You

really are a true arboreal saboteur". Not many can claim that distinction!

Both Anne and Ray contributed a lot to the area through their associations with the Kirk, the Heritage Museum, the Kirkmabreck Quilters as well as their voluntary work with the local food bank and the Penninghame St. John's Friday lunch club. And a lot of folk benefitted from Ray's knowledge as a builder, because when they asked for advice, the response was very often, "I'll just get my tool bag and be there in ten minutes"

Quite a few of us might well say, "Cambridge? Don't know the place. But we've got two good friends there!". We wish them well.

Andrew MacDonald



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**ALAN BLAEN
JOINER, PAINTER
& DECORATOR**

HOLMBANK, CREETOWN

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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.

PLEASE NOTE: IN ORDER TO FUND THE PRINTING OF THE FERRY NEWS, WE NEED PEOPLE TO ADVERTISE. PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL NEWSLETTER.