

Issue

27

Spring

2018

FERRY NEWS

Compiled by Creetown Initiative Ltd.



Booming Barholm!

Since it opened in August of last year, Barholm Accommodation has enjoyed an unexpectedly high level of occupancy. Even though it has been off-season, guests from all over the world have stayed here. More importantly, they have been coming back! It is not only gratifying to see our venture take off, but also

encouraging to see as we head into the busier spring and summer months.

The Barholm team would like to pass on sincere thanks to the community that has helped support this new venture. Whether you're a local who recommended us to visiting family or a business that displays our leaflets.



Above: St Joseph's Church ('The Band Hall')

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St Joseph's Redevelopment

Former St Joseph's Church, known locally as 'The Band Hall', is owned by Creetown Building Preservation Trust and home to Creetown Silver Band. Sadly the hall is in a poor state of repair and Creetown Building Preservation Trust formed in 2008 to raise funds to redevelop St Joseph's Church into a Performing Arts Venue for the band, the community and other arts groups to use.

Progress on this project has been slow and funding has been difficult to attain. In order to be more viable the Trust decided to strip back the original £1m project which included a new build, and is now working towards securing funding on a smaller, but no less important, redevelopment project.

To date £155,000 of the total £305,000 project costs has been secured from various different local and national funders. The final stage of the fundraising strategy is

a £150,000 grant application to LEADER Dumfries and Galloway, which will be submitted in June 2018.

"It has been a long road to this point", explains Project Worker, Amy-Dee Watson. "We have applied to over 80 different trusts and grant giving organisations, but we are really pleased to have secured over half of the project costs. We just have this last piece in the jigsaw to achieve and we are really hopeful for a successful outcome."

The redeveloped church will see the installation of a performance area with stage lighting, raked, retractable seating, acoustically designed tuition rooms, in addition to fully accessible amenities and a full repair to the fabric of the building, transforming it into a high quality arts venue.



BECOME A LIFETIME MEMBER - SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUB

See page 7 for more information

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Newton Stewart Walking Festival

11th to 17th May 2018

A week of walks exploring the wild hills, rugged coastline and rolling countryside of Galloway

www.walkfestnewtonstewart.com

or call 07421 312 056

Car Boot Sale
A75 Car Boot Sale
Sunday 1st April
10am - 1pm

Creetown Football Club,
Castle Cary, Creetown

Cars £7, Vans £9, Trailers + £2

Sellers 9am set up

No need to book just turn up!

ALAN BLAEN
JOINER, PAINTER
& DECORATOR

HOLMBANK, CREETOWN

TEL: 01671 820458

MOB: 07809713765

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Creetown Primary School News

Newton Stewart Burns Competition

On 23rd January Madison, Camryn and Kyle represented Creetown Primary at the Inter-schools Burns Competition at Penninghame Primary School. We were delighted that the school won the overall prize and Madison was named as the overall winner. They were invited to say their poems at the Burns Supper at the Creebridge on 26th January. Well done everyone!

School Scottish Poetry Competition

Throughout January all classes at the school, including Nursery were busy learning their Scots poems. On 1st February we recited our poems to the judges, Mrs Wilson and Mr Muir. Everyone did very well and the judges said they were entertained. We are looking forward to our Scots night, which P3/4 are organising, on 1st March.

P7 Charity Shop

P7 went to work in the charity shop where we served customers and stocked the shelves. We had lots of fun whilst doing it and developed skills like confidence, communication and Maths skills. We got to see what it is like to work in a shop.

French Pen Pals

P5/6/7 have been sending and receiving letters from their French pen pals. The school the pupils attend is called Ecole Jean Ferrat which is in Buzy-Darmont in N.E. France. On the week beginning 5th March, the children's teacher, Madame Bodin, is coming to visit our school. We are looking forward to welcoming her to Creetown, learning more French and learning more about French culture.

The Forest TV Programme

After visiting the Hatchery last year, some of P6 pupils featured in the BBC 1 programme, The Forest. On the TV programme you could see us fishing.

WestSound School of the Week

On 21st February someone from Westsound radio came in to record a few children for their "School of the Week" feature. Soon our voices will be heard on the radio so make sure you listen out for us!



P6/7 Kingswood Trip

From 18th to 21st February P6/7 went to Kingswood, on the outskirts of Hexham. The cabin we were in was called Willows and we had lots of fun sleeping over with our friends! Some of the exciting activities we did were Aeroball, Zipwire, The Leap of Faith, High Ropes, Nightline, Mini Olympics and many more. We also enjoyed singing and dancing around the campfire. One of our favourite songs was the Banana Song. During our stay we were encouraged to challenge ourselves and push ourselves outside of our comfort zones which we managed to do.

P5, 6 and 7, Creetown Primary School

Creetown Silver Band

The band is in good shape! We are busy practising for our summer engagements. We practise on a Thursday in the band hall 7:30 - 9:30pm, with a break for a cup of tea.

We welcome new players of any ability. If you would like to learn to play, we can lend you an instrument and give you some lessons. Youngsters are also invited to have a go. There are some band members helping young players on Tuesdays in the band hall from 7pm.

Come along and join in! Please contact Janet MacLennan for more information on 01557 330814.



Kirkmabreck Parish Church

Our church continues to play an important part in our village's life through weekly services and annual Christian festivals such as Easter and Christmas, as well as its use by the community for funerals, baptisms and weddings. As in many parts of Scotland, our membership is declining but that has not prevented us from remaining a warm and welcoming fellowship.

Declining church attendance has led to a decline in income and, consequently, a considerable challenge to the upkeep of our buildings. Whilst we can look to reserves to help us fund

repairs, there is a limit to which we can access this source of income. None of us can anticipate what the long-term future of our Victorian church building will be but we will do our best to keep it open for the benefit of village as long as we are able.

Easter Services

Thursday 29th March, 8pm, Tenebrae Service at Kirkmabreck

Friday 30th March, 7pm, Good Friday Service at Monigaff

Sunday 1st April, 11:30am, Easter Worship at Kirkmabreck

Robert McQuistan

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.



The Way We Were...

During the very cold weather in February quite a lot of people were heard to say it was a long time since it had been as cold as this. Probably the wee boy in the photograph would have agreed, standing as he was on a sign post above a snowdrift five feet high. Can you recognise him? He's very well known in Creetown, although as Chairman of the Heritage Museum he has changed a bit over the years!

The photo of the train stuck in the snow somewhere near Creetown station recalls the story - possibly true! - of when the passengers were rescued and taken down to the Ellangowan Hotel. Some of them had high hopes of a free welcoming dram to warm them up and raise their spirits, but were greatly disappointed to find their hopes were not shared by the landlord!

The Museum committee has reluctantly said farewell to a founder member, Peter Howie, who has moved with Janet, to the Gretna area. Peter was responsible for nearly all the photos in the museum and it was his idea to start the Creetown Calendar which has done so much to keep the museum's financial head above water



over the last few years. Fortunately he has not moved away too far, and will still be able to keep that good work going for us.

The Local History Group

The last few meetings have included a very well-produced film about our area; a talk by Joan Mitchell about Carsluith and the people who lived and worked there; and an account of the history of the cattle mart in Newton Stewart, by Gavin Campbell. It is amazing just how much fascinating history there is in this locality and how fortunate we are in having so many people who are prepared to share their knowledge with the rest of us, who, let's be honest, don't know as much as we might about it!



Andrew MacDonald

Creetown Heritage Museum Commemorates the Centenary year of the Cessation of WW1

There are a number of new exhibits on offer for this year including a feature window display commemorating those from Kirkmabreck parish who served in the First World War.

2018, the Centenary of victory in WW1, the so called 'Great War' or 'War to end all Wars'!

It didn't end all wars of course but it was certainly great in magnitude. Starting in Europe, it became a worldwide affair involving 70 million combat personnel; mostly ground forces fighting from the trenches. A long drawn out war, fought in the most bleak and miserable conditions.

The Kirkmabreck Parish has a proud history of supporting the War effort; both Men and Women. The Kirkmabreck VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) was very active leading up to the War and throughout both World Wars.

Creetown National Reserve and Creetown Territorial Volunteers affiliated to

Galloway 5th. The Galloway Volunteer Rifle Corp 5th company, headquartered at Newton Stewart had at least 120 Kirkmabreck men join their ranks from 1892 to 1914. It amalgamated to KOSB; The Kings Own Scottish Borderers (5th Battalion) in 1908 and many local men went on to serve with this unit, while others transferred to other regiments including Royal Scots, Black Watch, Seaforth Highlanders etc. There were a number of local men who joined the Navy.



August 1914, fought at Gallipoli, arriving in June 1915, where many lost their lives. A number of local men were injured including Quartermaster Sergeant Adam Birrell. The unit were evacuated to Palestine, fought at the Battle of Gaza and in 1918 handled themselves with distinction at Vimy Ridge in France.

Elizabeth Thomson of Creetown (pictured right) was a volunteer nurse working in a field hospital in France when she was killed by enemy aircraft on the 30th September 1917.



On the very morning of cessation of War, Mr and Mrs James Callander of the Lennies were notified that their eldest son Second Lieutenant Alexander Callander was killed

in action on The 2nd October 1918 in France.

Lance Corporal John A Black serving with the Highland light infantry died on the Somme on 1st November 1916. He was the Son of Reverend Black of the United Free Church in Creetown. Captain Ramsay Rainsford Hannay of Kirkdale served with 45th (Rattray's) Sikhs and was killed in action in Mesopotamia on the first day of February 1917.

There are 58 WW1 dead personnel inscribed on the Kirkmabreck memorial. Many more came home with debilitating injuries including gas affected. The total population of the Parish in 1914 was under 1500 of which 342 served in the War. It was a very high price to pay and affected people of all classes and distinction.

The Museum has a dedicated section covering the two World Wars with many exhibits and documents.

Some years ago Pam Bell, on behalf of the Museum, produced a definitive booklet with detailed information including the final resting places of all those who lost their lives and feature on the Town's War memorial which was unveiled in October 1921. It has brought great comfort to those researching their family heritage or just trying to find out what happened to their relative.

The Museum also has transcripts of letters sent home and a poignant voice recording of a letter from Lawrence Butler to his Mother telling how his brother Frank died in his arms. The letter reading is voiced by Kenny McKie.

The museum would welcome further information about those who served in World War One, especially any photographs, newspaper articles or anecdotes.

Creetown Heritage Museum re-opens on Sunday the 1st of April 2018. 11am till 4pm - April and May and September till mid-October - every day except Wednesday and Saturday. June, July and August - every day except Saturday.

We would welcome any new volunteers to take an active interest and maybe assist in shifts of 2.5 hours once a week. Please call in if you can help. Last year we lost several long term volunteers as they have moved away from the Area. We would like to thank Peter Howie for his sterling work in helping to set up the Museum and looking after the Photograph collection etc.

Thanks to Ray and Anne Sidebottom for years of dedicated support and Val Johnston, who remains in the area, continues to volunteer but has stood down from the committee and her active role in organizing rotas.

Mick Macleod

Dancing to Success!

Two young women, both from the Paula Herries School of Highland Dancing were delighted at the result of passing their Associate Highland Dancing Exam, governed by the British Association of Teachers of Dancing.

Last year, the girls studied and trained to gain the extra knowledge needed to fulfil their goal of becoming qualified dance teachers (at age 17) before leaving school to continue their studies at University.



Maura Wilson and Emma Harrison, both 18 years old are students at the local dance school and have taken part in many exams each year to work their way to the top to sit their Associates, which now enables them to teach the art of Highland Dance to others under their new registration.

Emma started dancing at the age of 7 and Maura at the age of 6. Both girls participated in community displays, regional and international competitions and yearly exams. The younger students were inspired by the girls and always looked up to their dance qualities and positive attitudes.

Emma comes from Newton Stewart and is currently studying Pharmacy at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. Emma's favourite dance is the Sean Truibhas. Maura is currently studying Environmental Geography at the University of Stirling. Her favourite dance is the Irish Jig and like Emma, her most memorable moment was dancing the Disneyland Parade!

Paula said "I am extremely proud of the girls and what they achieved, I couldn't ask for better students who were always willing to help in class, support others and have fun while dancing - that's what it's all about!"

Paula Herries



Walking Festival

Our beautiful landscape will soon be welcoming walkers from both near and far.

The week-long Newton Stewart Walking Festival, which runs from 11th to 17th May, is marking its 16th year, and once again is offering a programme of over 30 all day walks and other events.

Several routes will explore the local area, including climbs to the summit of Cairnsmore of Fleet, the hill which forms the back drop to Creetown.

Joan Mitchell, chair of the festival committee said: "This year's festival includes ascents from Cairnsmore of Fleet from several directions, including from the east via Loch Grannoch, from the west via Mill Burn and from the north as part of our 25km 'ultimate challenge' walk. We also have a gentler route which follows the old railway line west to finish at the dramatic Big Water of Fleet viaduct. We hope to offer a great day out in the hills for local residents as well as attract visitors to the area."

Full details of the 2018 Newton Stewart Walking Festival programme is available online at www.walkfestnewtonstewart.com or look out for the paper brochures in a range of local outlets. Alternatively call the WalkFest booking line on 07421 312 056.



BARHOLM COMMUNITY SHOP

Around the back of the Barholm building is a small Community Charity Shop, stocking a wide range of toys, books, clothes and other items of interest. The money raised from the shop takings goes back to community groups in the village. We have currently raised over £1,000 for these groups.

The shop is open **10am - 2pm every Friday and Saturday** - please come along and grab yourself a bargain and support local groups.

Donations of any kind of stock are welcome. We are also looking for volunteers to work in the shop, so if you could spare a couple of hours a month please get in touch on **01671 820654** or email ben.barholm@gmail.com.

BARHOLM Cycle Hire

Barholm Cycle Hire offers a wide range of bicycles to rent for either a full or half day. There are manual bikes in both adult and child sizes, as well as electric bikes and safety equipment available for free.

Half Day Hire commences at 9am and finishes at 12:30pm, or commences at 1pm and finishes at 4:30pm.

Full Day Hire commences at 9am until 4:30pm.

Adult Manual:	Electric (adults only):
Half day - £8	Half day - £12
Full day - £12	Full Day - £20

Kids Manual: (U16)
Half day - £4
Full day - £6

Helmets are available to hire for free.

Prices can be negotiated for multiple days of hiring. Bike locks can be supplied for no additional cost.

We are located at the back of the Barholm building. Phone **01671 820654** or email ben.barholm@gmail.com

'Sew-cessful' New Local Embroidery Business



Fleet Valley Embroidery, located on Barholm Farm, near Kirkdale, recently started up at the end of last year.

Specialising in professional garment embroidery and printing services, Fleet Valley Embroidery provides personalised text, images and logos on a whole range of garments, workwear, equestrian items and competition outfits for individuals, companies and clubs. Also offered is screen printing on a range of clothing, or other items, such as umbrellas and shopping bags. Ideal for a charity event, or perhaps a wild stag or hen do!

"To begin with it was equestrian embroidery that was keeping me busy, but now it's workwear, including orders

from fishing fleets in the area", explains business owner, Susan Murdoch.

The business has an extensive online catalogue, from which customers can purchase their garments for personalising, or customers can provide their own garments, horse rugs, saddle cloths, bags etc if preferred.

For more information or to place an order, visit www.fleetvalleyembroidery.co.uk, or phone Susan on 07876593868.



BECOME A LIFETIME MEMBER - SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUB

Creetown Football Club is finding it harder and harder to survive in the local community due to lack of funding. Therefore we have decided to launch a new Lifetime Members scheme. The price to become a Lifetime Member will be £100 per member. By becoming a Lifetime Member you will receive:

- your own personalised Creetown F.C Members Card
- you will be invited to one Hospitality Day per season at Castle Cary Park to watch a match (to include a finger buffet and refreshments)
- you will get free entry to all Creetown F.C home matches and also get your name on a brand new Creetown FC Lifetime Members Board.

What's more, it gives people the chance to become part of one of the oldest and longest running clubs in Creetown. There is the chance to pay this in monthly payments of £20 or £10 per month. The club desperately needs the support from the locals or we may fail to continue to function. **To purchase a membership please contact Ben or Alastair Herries on 07399489916 / 07887712102 or visit our website www.creetownfc.net.**



WE ARE OPEN:
1 Feb—31 March
(Wednesday to Sunday Inclusive)
1 April—31 October
(seven days)
1 November—22 December
(Wednesday—Sunday inclusive)
(Closed 23 December to 31 January)

MUSEUM

This unique, family business has now been established in Creetown for 37 years. Our display of amazing gems, crystals, minerals and fossils continues to grow and is now one of the finest in the country. We are also one of the region's favourite visitor attractions. Creetown residents can come in free and if your friends and family come, their ticket is valid for two weeks.

GIFT SHOP

Jam packed full of gem set silver jewellery, gifts, fossils, minerals and other speciality items.
Lots of new stock arriving for Easter too . . .

Look out for the 50% off Items!

TEAROOM

Daily specials, home made soup, fresh home baking, speciality teas and coffees and a roaring log fire

Maybe you just haven't been in for a while, or need an excuse to get your friends/neighbours/family together . . .
so why not take advantage of our special offer

COFFEE MORNING
EVERY FRIDAY BETWEEN 10 AM AND 12 NOON
ALL COFFEES (AND TEAS) ONLY £1 EACH

(Pick up a Loyalty Card too and earn a free hot drink)
We can cater for large pre-booked groups, days and evenings

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Tim and Carolyn Stephenson
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