

Issue

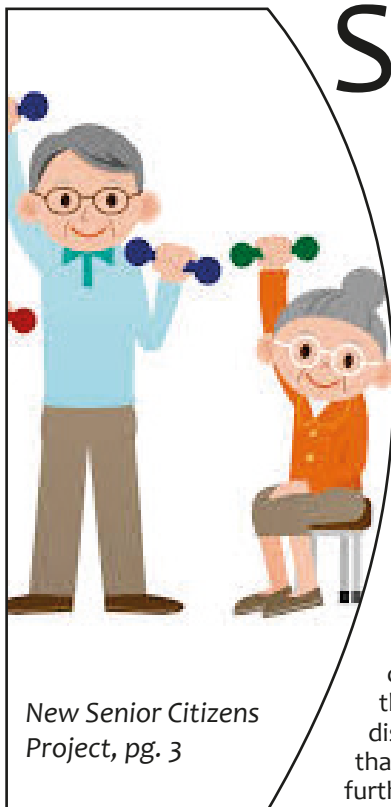
28

Summer

2018

# FERRY NEWS

Compiled by Creetown Initiative Ltd.



New Senior Citizens Project, pg. 3

## St Joseph's Funding Success

Creetown Building Preservation Trust, assisted by Creetown Initiative, is delighted to announce that funding has been secured for the full project costs to redevelop the former St Joseph's Church, known locally as the "Band Hall", into a Performing Arts Venue.

St Joseph's, a B listed building, was deconsecrated as a church in 1998, and was purchased by the Creetown Silver Band, who use the building as a rehearsal, tuition and storage space. The Creetown Silver Band, which was founded in 1880, has a dedicated membership of over 30 amateur musicians, however the current configuration of the building, disrepair and poor state of facilities means that it is impossible for the band to expand further, reach new members and increase their tuition output. Consequently the band donated the hall to the Creetown Building Preservation Trust, to work together to restore St Joseph's Church and establish it as a Performing Arts Venue for the community of Creetown, other arts groups

and the wider area of Dumfries and Galloway. The redevelopment of the building will provide many benefits to locals, community groups and visitors alike, whilst conserving an historical community building at risk of becoming derelict and an eyesore.

Once the Arts Performance Venue opens, there will be skills development opportunities for young people in creative activities, volunteering and musical training, a wide range of events and skills development for all the community and an extensive programme of events will be organised, with professional musicians, artists, comedians, bands and production companies. The function of the building will be extended, establishing a facility that can be used all year round and it will encourage visitors to Creetown to sustain and further develop the local economy.

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. Building works will commence at the beginning of 2019.

### Inside this issue:

Creetown School News

Senior Citizens Project

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TWO JOBS

Heritage Museum

Memories - Drew Murray

Kirkcudbright Arts and Crafts



Plan of Redevelopment of St Joseph's Church



# New Logo for Creetown Initiative

We are pleased to reveal our brand new logo for Creetown Initiative! The design provides a sense of place to our wee village, whilst also having a fresh modern feel. It echos our Barholm Centre logo with its loose style, blue border and layered look. We feel it represents Creetown Initiative perfectly; a thriving, forward-thinking organisation, with the local community at its heart and a solid presence in the Scottish, community-led sector. This logo was created in-house by our creative team member, Amy-Dee Watson. Please get in touch if you are interested in having some design work created by us; [creetown@btconnect.com](mailto:creetown@btconnect.com) or 01671 820654.



# Creetown Primary School News

## Cross Country

On 20<sup>th</sup> April P5/6/7 took part in Cross Country at Kirroughtree. There were different races, for example, Forest Flat, Kirroughtree Kilometre and Woodland Ascent. We all tried our best and enjoyed the experience.

## P6 Operation Safety

P6 went to Stair Park in Stranraer to learn about how to keep ourselves safe. We took part in workshops about how to put people in the recovery position, how to keep safe online, we learned about fire safety and about the important jobs coastguards do.

## Sports Day

On 7<sup>th</sup> June it was sports day. It was a very hot afternoon but we had some gazebos to help keep us cool. Everyone participated really well and enjoyed themselves. Kyle was the boys' sports champion, Annabel was the girls' sports champion and Barholm were the house winners.



## Netball League

During May and June, Ann Ferguson ran the Machars netball league, with help from some of the ladies from Galloway netball club. On the first week we played friendly matches and in the following three weeks we played league matches. We all played really well and enjoyed competing. The last week was the prize giving and we were really pleased that Iona won the fair play award.

## Football League

Our football team played league matches during April, May and June. We played really well and definitely improved as the weeks went on. At the end of the league we were top of tier 2 and Kyle was awarded player of tier 2.

## P5 Hatchery Visits

Throughout the year P5 have been going to the Hatchery to learn about the lifecycle of fish. We also learned how to fish. We all really enjoyed the experience.



## Trips

P1-4 enjoyed a visit to Culzean Castle on 21<sup>st</sup> June. They did beach activities and a minibeast hunt. P5-7 went to the Gallery of Modern Art and Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow. We did a printing workshop in the morning and enjoyed exploring Kelvingrove in the afternoon.

## End of Term Assembly

On 27<sup>th</sup> June we held our end of term assembly. It was a great celebration of everyone's hard work and there were lots of trophies and certificates given out. P7 also performed their special play full of puns and jokes which was a hit with the audience. We wish everyone a good summer.

## Adults V Children Netball

On the second last day the postponed adults v children netball match took place. It was a very hot afternoon and everyone played so well but the adults were the eventual winners. Well done everyone but we look forward to the rematch!

P5, 6 and 7, Creetown Primary School

# JOB VACANCIES Creetown Initiative

## Project Workers for Creetown Senior Citizens Support Project

2 x Part time jobs: 21 hours & 14 hours per week.  
Fixed terms (3 years)

For more information visit our website  
[www.creetowninitiative.co.uk/news](http://www.creetowninitiative.co.uk/news)

To apply send CV and a letter explaining why you are suitable for the position by post or by email to: Mrs Chris Hanna, Senior Project Officer, Creetown Initiative, 54 St John Street, Creetown, DG8 7JF, email [chris@creetowninitiative.co.uk](mailto:chris@creetowninitiative.co.uk)

Closing date is Friday 17th August, 5pm



# New Creetown Senior Citizens Support

Creetown Initiative is delighted to announce that £90,000 from the BIG Lottery Improving Lives fund has been secured, to provide support and develop activities for senior citizens in our community.

Senior Project Officer, Chris Hanna, who is responsible for securing this funding, is pleased that the older people in our community will benefit directly from Lottery funding. "Over the years Creetown Initiative has developed many worthwhile projects for our community, including the new play park, youth projects, Waverley Hall refurbishment and our car share scheme, however this is the first time we have been able to develop a project that will provide support and activities specifically for our elderly community members. I am delighted that this project will come to fruition."

With this funding and additional funding from Dumfries and Galloway Council, Creetown Initiative will employ two part time project workers to deliver the project over 3 years. We plan to carry out the following:

- A monthly lunch club
- A Befriending/Friendship club which will include visiting those who are housebound and where possible take some of the activities to those visits.
- Computer classes

## Kirkmabreck Parish Church

We are glad to report that we have completed an important repair to our church roof which has stopped leaking onto the ceiling.

The Guild meets during the summer months and information on our meetings can be obtained from Joan McKie (Tel: 820 278). Every three years the Guild supports 6 national and international projects and over the past three years over half a million pounds has been raised by hard-working Guilds throughout the country, ourselves included.

Robert McQuistan

- Organise activities such as bingo, arts and crafts which could include making cards, calendars etc, a senior citizens exercise class such as T'ai Chi and chair aerobics.
- Advice and advocacy service - assistance with finding affordable household insurance, utilities.
- Transport to GP appointments/social activities/shopping trips.
- Music/sing song afternoon.
- Organise group health walks.
- Organise visits from Fire Service accompanied by project worker to assess fire safety in the home.
- Excursions - trips to the cinema in Newton Stewart, garden centres.

Creetown has a high number of residents aged 65+. We know that feelings of loneliness and isolation can often lead to serious consequences for senior citizens' health. While living alone does not inevitably lead to social isolation, it is certainly a predisposing factor.

Social contacts tend to decrease as we age for a variety of reasons, including retirement, the death of friends and family, or lack of mobility. Regardless of the causes of senior isolation, the consequences can be harmful. Even perceived social isolation — the feeling

that you are lonely — is a struggle for many older people.

Research from Age UK in 2016 showed that there are 80,000 people aged 65 and over living in Scotland who felt lonely "always" or "often" whilst 350,000 said their TV was their main form of company. The effects of loneliness also exacerbate physical health problems and clear links have been found between social isolation and dementia, malnutrition and mental illness. Human beings are social animals - they aren't meant to be on their own. People can become socially isolated for a variety of reasons, such as getting older or weaker, no longer being the hub of their family, leaving the workplace, the deaths of spouses and friends, or through disability or illness.

Through our project, Creetown Initiative wishes to tackle these issues and hopes to improve the lives of our older community members by increasing access to social interaction, improving health and wellbeing, reducing feelings of isolation and 'not wanting to be a burden' and providing support to live more independently.

We are currently advertising for the two project worker posts (see advert on previous page) and hope to begin this project by September. For more information, please contact Chris Hanna on 01671 820654, [chris@creetowninitiative.co.uk](mailto:chris@creetowninitiative.co.uk), pop into the Creetown Initiative office, or visit our website:

[www.creetowninitiative.co.uk/news](http://www.creetowninitiative.co.uk/news).



Say goodbye to the burdens of vehicle ownership with hourly car rental on your doorstep.

Wheels4Creetown Car Club gives you access to cars without the burden of ownership. We have a Renault Grand Scenic, a Renault Clio - which are both automatic. All vehicles are available to use 24/7, 365 days a year as little as 1 hour or as long as you want. Your 'free' membership can also give

you access to every Moorcar car club vehicle across the UK. Once you have joined the Wheels4Creetown Car Club you can then just book the car you want online, or call in to our offices at Creetown Initiative and ask a staff member to do this online for you. You can then grab the keys and enjoy your trip. Then, after your journey, return the car to the reserved bay, in Creetown, when you're done. The vehicles include a CD player and radio, and a port for you to connect your iPod or MP3 player - we know how important it is to have your favourite driving tunes on!

If you are interested in joining our car club, please either register online at [www.moorcar.co.uk](http://www.moorcar.co.uk) and follow the 'Register' tab on the home page, or contact us at Creetown Initiative and we will help you become a member. The process usually takes up to 48 hours to complete. For more details contact 01671 820654.



# Memories

## Drew Murray: My Great Grandpa

Growing up in Dumfries, I've spent many days in Creetown due to it's strong family connection. However, it wasn't until more recently that I realised how much of an impact my Great Grandfather had on his beloved Creetown.

Andrew Steel Murray, known locally as Drew Murray, was born in Creetown and lived there for the majority of his life. When Drew was born his family were already part of the village as they owned the local newsagent shop on St. John Street, which Drew would later run along with his wife Mary in the 1960s and 70s. Drew grew up with his siblings, being educated at the local primary school before attending the Douglas Ewart in Newton Stewart. After leaving school he started work at *The Galloway Gazette* and worked himself up to editor and director by the time he retired in 1976.

Drew made a number of contributions to the village. Personally, I feel one of Drew's greatest achievements was his role in creating the 'Ferry News Letter'. When war broke out in 1939, Drew was declared unfit to serve due to a previous injury, but with two brothers serving at the front he wanted to help the war effort. He joined the Royal Observer Corps which saw Drew keeping a look out for enemy planes flying over the area. There are a few family stories relating to the nights he saw German Bombers heading towards Glasgow. However, being an active observer was not his only contribution. Using skills learned during his time at *The Galloway Gazette* Drew helped establish the 'Ferry News Letter' which was the first of it's kind in Scotland. Newsletters were put together monthly (I believe) relating to events occurring in Creetown. These newsletters were sent to serving Creetonians all over the world. The Ministry of Defence allowed these newsletters to be sent but Drew noted that on occasion some information would be blacked out in case the newsletters fell into enemy hands. The newsletters continued until the end of the war in 1945 and I'm sure he would be thrilled to see the revival of the Ferry News today.

Drew made further contributions to the village and played an important role within the drama club. The club not only provided entertainment for local residents but Drew helped the club find success at festivals in Stewartry and Wigtonshire. He even convinced his wife Mary and eldest son Gerald into performing. It was Drew's involvement with the community during the war and with the drama club that earned him an MBE which he received in 1988.

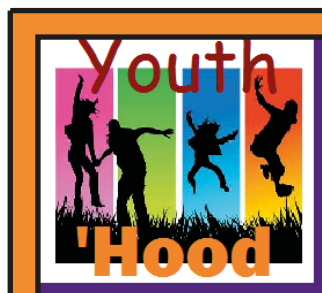
Drew died in 1997, a year before I was born, but growing up, my Grandparents and Mother all talked about him. I look back at his life with great interest and great pride at the impact he had on such a small, but lovely village.

Becky Robson



Above: Drew receiving his MBE at Buckingham Palace, with his children John, Maurag and Gerald.

Below: Drew and Mary with other members of the Drama Club.



### Senior Youth Club

On Saturday 30th June, our youth work team took 14 young people aged 12 - 15 to Youth Beatz - a music festival in Dumfries, especially for young people. All the young people (and staff!) had a brilliant time. We organised this trip as part of the Year of Young People events happening across the region.



### Friday Youth Sports

On the last day of term, we held a 'Shorts and Shades' party for the young people who attend our Friday Night Sports in the Waverley Hall. All the child came dressed in brightly coloured shorts and sunglasses, and we played party games, sports, ate party food and had tons of fun!

## Creetown Heritage Museum Commemorates the Centenary year of the Cessation of WW1 - Part 2, The Birrells

Following last issue's report on the Kirkmabreck participation in the First World War, it's clear that the Parish as a whole showed great support for the War effort and, with vigorous fundraising, were a wonderful lifeline to the young men and women at the front via parcels and letters. The Woman's Institute, Boy Scouts, schools and other organisations all played their part as contemporary news articles show.

One family of some influence were the Birrells of Carluith: a mussel fishing family, formally from Anworth. They later expanded their fisheries business to include salmon trapping.

Oldest son, Adam Birrell, lived a long life and became well-known as an expert on fish and wild fowl. He was a great friend of naturalist Peter Scott and actor James Justice Robertson. He was regularly booked for after-dinner speeches and made the occasional radio broadcast. He captained the Creetown tug-of-war team and, later in life, was a keen gardener and judged at flower shows etc. He was also a freemason.

Adam was a great swimmer and in 1909 was on-board the 'Sirius' (a boat belonging to Mr Fergusson of 'Hill of Burns', Creetown) when it went on fire, sank and the sea claimed the lives of Mr and Mrs Fergusson and their Chauffeur Sydney Seal. Captain Henryson-Caird of Cassencary was also on board. After making sure the occupants had lifebelts, Adam swam 2 miles for help but by the time he returned with the lifeboat, the Fergussons and Sidney Seal had drifted away from the wreck. An ailing Captain Caird was picked up and survived the ordeal. Mrs Fergusson was later found alive by a fisherman and the following morning Mr Fergusson too was found barely alive but unfortunately both succumbed. Sydney Seal's body was recovered sometime later. For his part, Adam Birrell was awarded a Medal for Bravery from the Royal Humane Society.

Adam was passionate about serving his country and, with his brothers (at that time in Newton Stewart GRV), was instrumental in setting up the Creetown

branch of the Galloway Rifle Volunteers at a time when it was popular for young men to train and be ready to fight for the Empire in the event of War. From 1851, this had been the case throughout the British Empire. Adam served as a Sergeant in the GRV and, from 1908, the new Territorial Force, and finally Kings Own Scottish Borderers 1/5<sup>th</sup> Company. He served in Gallipoli and Egypt.

The Creetown GRV firing range was on the beach opposite Souters Croft, or the current Galloway Smokehouse. You can still see the remains of a shield, where a person was protected from the shooting but could operate the target frames, perhaps a 'Ralston'. Weekly practice and occasional competitions were held here. The group also met at the Waverley hall weekly.

Adam's brothers William Birrell and Peter Birrell were particularly good shots and featured well in competitions. They were also both keen cyclists, entering competitions and going on to serve in the Cycle Corp. (Forerunners to the later Motorcycle Despatch riders). Peter had served as a cyclist in the South African Boer War. He later served in Gallipoli. A good footballer, William Birrell captained the Creetown Volunteer FC side which won the Wigtonshire and District Galloway shield, Tweedie Cup 1906/7.

The family owned the boat 'Annie', currently sited behind Creetown Heritage Museum awaiting restoration, and took part in many a regatta. For example: at Wigton bay, Garlieston and Isle of Whithorn. The Museum has a trophy on display from the Garlieston Regatta, where William Birrell took 'Annie' to victory in 1906, 1907 and 1913.

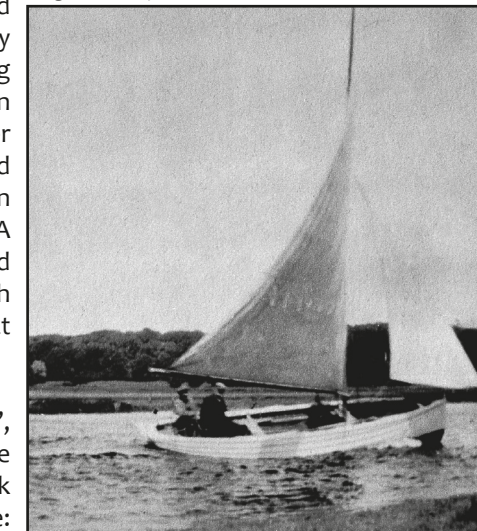
The Reverend Stuart Wallace said of Adam, when he was injured in Gallipoli: "Sergeant Birrell had carried on a most earnest and patriotic work in connection with the volunteers and territorials. During all those years he had been fighting against the lethargy and selfishness, and greed of men, and it was only just to say, that for his self-denying labours, there would have been at the outbreak of the

war, no territorial force in the Parish."

Mercifully, the brothers survived the war, though Peter Birrell died in May 1919. Adam Birrell died at the age of 91, in 1958.



Above: Adam Birrell Colour Srg GRVC Creetown and Sgt 5th KOSB A4. Below: Annie at sail in Wigton Bay.



Above: Creetown Rifles Volunteers FC. Photos credit: Creetown Heritage Museum

Mick MacLeod



# VOSCAR's Award Win for Barholm

Barholm Enterprise Centre recently won an award at the Dumfries and Galloway VOSCARs. The centre was nominated for the Innovative and Enterprising category and was announced as the locality winner on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June.

Barholm Enterprise Centre opened in the summer of 2017, bringing many new types of businesses and opportunities to the village, including an arts and crafts cooperative, tourist accommodation, cycle hire and repair, charity shop and car hire. The Enterprise Centre supports directly and indirectly fifteen jobs. The arts and crafts cooperative alone supports nine artists who would otherwise be unable to rent a shop. Since the accommodation opened in late September 2017, over 500 bed nights have been sold, in turn these new visitors to the village have supported existing jobs and businesses. The site also has a charging point for electric cars. The Barholm Enterprise Centre has succeeded not only at supporting the community, but helping the community support itself.

The VOSCARs are run by Third Sector, Dumfries and Galloway and focus on celebrating projects and organisations that have a social or environmental impact. Third Sector, Dumfries and Galloway are a platform to promote the organisations within the sector and provide them with support.

"It is a great honour to have the work of Creetown Initiative recognised locally in this way," said Tim Stephenson, the board director of Creetown Initiative. "Especially the work of the volunteer directors who do a lot of work behind the scenes."

## BARHOLM ARTS & CRAFTS

Barholm Arts and Crafts is just about to celebrate its first birthday - see posters and social media for details of the celebrations. The past year has been a steep learning curve, with members getting to know each other and working together to get the shop up and running. We are all volunteers, and we are fast getting to grips with the retail world. The shop has brought new life to a derelict building, given visitors to the village another reason to linger, and, being open 7 days, has often been able to provide an "emergency" gift or card! Our selection of original art and prints, cards, jewellery, turned wood, unique knitwear and sewn items has been much admired. If you haven't been in yet to meet us yet, we would be as delighted to see you as we are to welcome our growing band of regular customers.

Remember, we are open every day 10.30am - 5.00pm and like us on Facebook @barholmartsandcrafts to keep up to date.

Val Horton

## BARHOLM COMMUNITY SHOP

Around the back of the Barholm Centre there is a small Community Shop from which the money made in it, goes back to community groups in the village. We have currently raised nearly £3000 for groups within Creetown. The shop is open from 10am-2pm every Friday and Saturday - come along and grab yourself a bargain. Donations of any kind of stock are welcome.

We would desperately like to open more hours during the main summer when we have more people in the village. However, we rely on volunteers to work the shop. If you could spare a couple of hours a month please get in touch with me on 01671 820654 or email me on [ben.barholm@gmail.com](mailto:ben.barholm@gmail.com)

## New Gala Banners

Every year we have problems with the Gala flags falling down. This year we decided to get banners similar to what was used for the country weekend. We asked Creetown Primary School to get involved by asking all pupils to design a poster as to what Gala was to them. The posters were then independently judged by a resident of the village and a winner was picked from each class; Nursery Ethan Parker, P1 & 2 Declan Mackie, P3 & 4 James Davidson and P5-7 Annabel Haley. These four posters will be appearing on the banners. **Creetown Gala is on Sunday 5th - Saturday 11th August 2018.** Programmes can be picked up from all local businesses.



Nicola McCartan

## THE MAGNIFICENT SEA HAMES WILLOW HORSE IS COMING TO KIRKCUDBRIGHT ART AND CRAFTS TRAIL



The award winning Kirkcudbright Art and Crafts Trail is celebrating its fifteenth year with the arrival of a magnificent willow horse. The Trail, which brought the kelpie maquettes to town, is delighted to exhibit this 18 foot high sculpture which is bound to attract locals and visitors again from far and wide.

The Trail runs from 3rd to 6th August but the horse will arrive the weekend before and stay on Fisherman's Green near the harbour for five weeks giving plenty of opportunities to admire and of course take selfies.

Constructed by local artists Alex Rigg and Trevor Leat of Oceanalover, the visit is entitled "Sea Hames" which is inspired by 'The Festival of the Horse and Boys' Ploughing Match' and explores mythology and iconography of horse, plough and the sea.

The Willow Horse arrives on 27th July, when we will be holding a picnic, along with entertainment and music on Moat Brae.

Keep in touch on Kirkcudbright Art and Crafts Trail facebook page and the town website.

Come and visit us this summer, as ever there is so much going on in Kirkcudbright.

Colin Saul

**KIRKCUDBRIGHT ART & CRAFTS TRAIL 2018**  
**3 TO 6 AUGUST**  
[www.artandcraftstrail.com](http://www.artandcraftstrail.com)

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Joan Smith

Creetown caravan park

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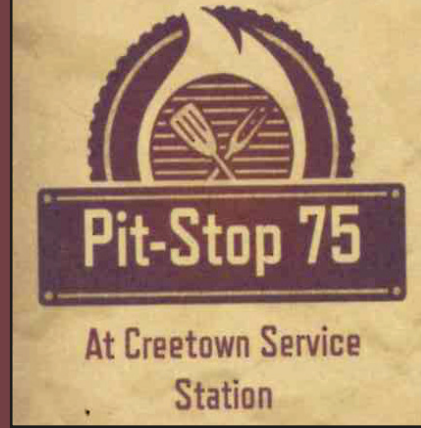
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## YOUTH SUMMER DROP-IN

AGES 10 - 17 7pm - 8:30pm

COME AND CHILL, LISTEN TO MUSIC, PLAY POOL, TABLE FOOTBALL, X BOX AND TAKE PART IN THE OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

NEWTON STEWART		CREETOWN	
NEWTON STEWART CENTRE		YOUTH & LEISURE HALL	
WEDNESDAY...		THURSDAY...	
11 JULY	DRUMMING WORKSHOP WITH 'DRUM FOR FUN'	12 JULY	ROCKET MAKING WITH GALLOWAY RANGER
18 JULY	DJ MIXING MUSIC WORKSHOP WITH DJ FESTA	19 JULY	DJ MIXING MUSIC WORKSHOP WITH DJ FESTA
25 JULY	ROCKET MAKING WITH GALLOWAY RANGER	26 JULY	SWIMMING AT CASTLE CARY
1 AUGUST	BBQ AND WATER FIGHT!	2 AUGUST	BBQ AND WATER FIGHT!

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.

