

Issue
33
Spring
2021

FERRY NEWS

Compiled by Creetown Initiative Ltd.



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Auditorium Seating for Quarrymen's Arts Centre

The opening of the new Quarrymen's Arts Centre is a step closer as new auditorium seating was installed in the former St Joseph's Church. The state of the art seating creates an 80 seat auditorium, ideal for hosting music, theatre and comedy events. With the help of an in-built powered mechanism, the seating retracts to open up the hall, making it available for rehearsals classes and workshops. The seating was a final step in the internal restoration of the building; the transformation of which has been dramatic. The seating was funded by LEADER Dumfries and Galloway and Region Wide Community Fund.

Stuart McNab of Creetown Building Preservation Trust said "it's been quite emotional to see the transformation of the space. It has been many years of work, from first taking on the building, to see it transformed from a run down building at risk of falling into disrepair, to a real asset for the community."

by the Creetown Silver Band, who use the building as a rehearsal, tuition and storage space. However the disrepair and poor state of facilities meant that it was impossible for the band to expand further. The band donated the hall to the Creetown Building Preservation Trust, to work together, with support from Creetown Initiative 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 a 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 Centre will also be the home of Creetown Silver Band which will use it for rehearsing and teaching. 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, after the easing of Covid restrictions.

We will have the official opening events once it is safe under Covid-19 regulations to accommodate a full house. We are monitoring government advice closely for when this will be possible. However we will at least be able to open the venue this summer for first viewings and taster events prior to the official opening. St Joseph's, which is a 154 year old B listed building, was deconsecrated in 1994. Then was purchased

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