

Gilsland Village Magazine

APRIL 2023

Gilsland C E Primary update!

By Hannah Salkeld, Head of School

Spring term at Gilsland School has been jam-packed. In January, we worked in collaboration with Wreay School to organise a visit from Imran Kotwal- a Muslim who taught the children all about Islam. They had a great time learning about all the artefacts he brought and loved having the opportunity to ask him questions about his faith. We had a lovely community lunch in February, with a special visit from Mrs O'Neil, who told us all about her wonderful trip to Australia. For the past six weeks, the whole school has been visiting Morton Academy in Carlisle to work with gymnastics coaches. They have had so much fun and have learnt so many different skills. The playdates for under 3s have been really successful and we are looking forward to more of these in the summer term.



In March, we had a Commando Joe's Day, a day where we do whole school challenges that help us work on resilience, communication, positivity and team-work.

We are so excited to share with you that our SIAMS report is now out and available to read. With the support of the staff, children, families and community, Gilsland School proudly achieved 'GOOD' in all areas. One of the many comments was 'Every adult and pupil is known, and cared for, as a unique person. This is evident in warm and genuine relationships where acceptance transcends tolerance. Through this, pupils and adults ensure that the vision to love your neighbour is lived out in actions rather than merely words. Behaviour is good throughout the school and based on mutual respect. Pupils understand the importance of forgiveness. They demonstrate how this is linked to the school value of compassion. Pupils and adults celebrate achievements together and delight in the success of others. This gives all a sense of personal aspiration. Pupils, including those deemed vulnerable or disadvantaged, have opportunities to thrive.' **To read the full report visit** <https://www.gilsland.cumbria.sch.uk/key-information/siams-report.html>

The date for the next community lunch is Wednesday 3rd May at 12.10pm. This will be £6 per person, open to any members of the community and family members. Please contact the school to let us know if you'd like a place. Call 016977 47302 or email admin@gilsland.cumbria.sch.uk.

Inside: Swimming in faeces (pg 5) and the mag goes online (pg 11)

Refuse, recycling & bin collections

Northumberland County Council

- General: 14th & 27th April
- Recycling: 6th & 20th April

View the full calendar at:

northumberland.gov.uk/waste

Haltwhistle household recycling

- Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday
- 8am - 6pm

Carlisle City Council

- General & Garden: 3rd & 17th April
- Recycling: 11th & 24th April

View the full calendar at:

carlisle.gov.uk/residents/bins-and-recycling

Gilsland Methodist

Services start at 10.30am unless otherwise stated.

- 09/04 | Holy Communion with Rev'd Paul Beard
- 23/04 | Songs of Praise service

St. Mary Magdalene

02/04 | Palm Sunday Holy Communion, Lanercost. 10am.

03/04 | Holy Monday, Taize choir service, Gilsland. 6.30pm.

09/04 | Easter day, Holy Communion, Nether Denton. 9.30am.

16/04 | Holy Communion, Gilsland. 9.30am.

23/04 | Morning Worship, Lanercost. 11am.

30/04 | Holy Communion, Nether Denton. 10am.

House of Meg Tea Rooms

Gilsland's award-winning tea rooms serving hot meals, drinks and delicious tray bakes.

Fire & Dough will be serving up more delicious pizza on 6th April. On 15th April, **Forged Flavours** will be visiting House of Meg with a menu of Latin, American and Asian inspired fusion flavours!



4 Hall Terrace,
Gilsland, CA8 7BW
Tel: 016977 47777

Mon - Sat: 10am - 3pm
Sun: 10am - 3pm
Wed: Closed

www.houseofmeg.co.uk

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays

- Community Coffee Morning | Village Hall | 10.30am - 12.30pm
- Gilsland Youth Club | Village Hall | 6pm - 8.30pm

Tuesdays

- Yoga | Haltwhistle Leisure Centre | 10.30am - 11.30am
- Walking Group | Haltwhistle, Market Square | 11am
- G&G Knitting Group | House of Meg | 1pm - 3pm
- Outreach Post Office | Village Hall | 1pm - 4pm

Wednesdays

- Craft Group | Village Hall | 1pm - 4pm
- Yoga | Village Hall | (Chair) 10.30am, (Barre Fitness) 6.15pm and (Hatha) 7.30pm

Thursdays

- Outreach Post Office | Village Hall | 9.30am - 12.30pm
- Coffee Break | Methodist Chapel | 10.30am - 12 noon
- Yoga | Village Hall | 7pm - 8pm

Fridays

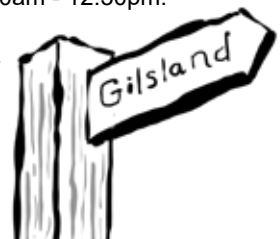
- Outreach Post Office | Village Hall | 9.30am - 12.30pm
- Yoga | Haltwhistle Leisure Centre | 7.15pm - 8.15pm

Saturdays

- Hatha Flow Yoga | Village Hall | 9am - 10am

DIARY DATES

- 02/04 | Hadrian's Wall Farmers Market, Greenhead Village Hall. 10am - 2pm.
- 03/04 | Taize for Easter, St Mary Magdalen. 6.30pm.
- 06/04 | Craft Workshop, Hallbankgate Hub. 2pm - 4pm.
- 06/04 | Fire & Dough pizza van, House of Meg. 5.30pm onwards.
- 10/04 | Coffee Morning Easter Special, Gilsland Village Hall. 10.30am - 12.30pm.
- 15/05 | Forged Flavours food van, House of Meg. 5.30pm onwards.
- 16/04 | Cream teas & crafts, Greenhead Village Hall. 1pm - 4pm.
- 18/04 | Gilsland Theatre Group meeting, Gilsland Village Hall. 7pm.
- 21/04 | New Hadrians Singers meeting. 7pm.
- 22/04 | Chris Cantrill Comedy Night, Gilsland Village Hall. 7.30pm - 9pm.
- 22/04 | Music with Ian Brown, Amy Thatcher & Fran Knowles, Wark Town Hall. 7.45pm.
- 23/04 | Geological tour, House of Meg. 10am - 4pm.
- 26/04 | Robert Whithead accordion show, Greenhead Village Hall. 2pm.
- 03/05 | Community lunch, Gilsland C E Primary School. 12.10pm.
- 08/05 | Coffee Morning Coronation Special, Gilsland Village Hall. 10.30am - 12.30pm.
- 13/05 | Still Life workshop, Slack House Farm. 10am - 3pm.
- 26/05 | Fools Gold, Gilsland Village Hall. 6.15pm (Doors), 7pm (Start).
- 23/06 | The 2023 Gilsland Parents Day Race Showdown...



Cream teas and crafts in Greenhead!

There will be cream teas and crafts in Greenhead Village Hall on Sunday 16th April from 1pm to 4pm.

Coffee Break appeal helps raise money for Ukraine

SOS Children's Villages has been a lifeline to affected communities in Ukraine and hosting countries across Europe, directly and indirectly supporting more than 284,000 people to date. Thank you to everyone who has donated to our Ukraine appeal so far. With your help, over 125,000 people in Ukraine, including 74,000 children, have directly received vital support through SOS Children's Villages programmes.

Get involved in Gilsland's burgeoning amateur dramatics scene!

There will be an opening evening for the fledgling Gilsland Theatrical Society in the Village Hall on Tuesday 18th April at 7pm. The plan is just to introduce ourselves, discuss plans and do a read through!

An evening of music and intrigue with Folk Duo 'Fools Gold'

In 1900, three lighthouse men mysteriously disappear and to this day, no-one knows what happened. The audience is invited to solve the mystery - with live music both original and contemporary, and projected images to bring it to life. There's plenty for audiences to get involved with, it's surprising how many songs from the time you will know - and people always sing! There's humour and plenty of head scratching too - can YOU solve the mystery of Flannan Lighthouse? The show is on 26th May in the Gilsland Village Hall. Doors open at 6.15pm and the show starts at 7pm. Tickets cost £6 per person, available from the Hall.

Gilsland & Greenhead Knitters open afternoon

The Gilsland & Greenhead Knitting Group are holding an open afternoon and get together in the Gilsland Village Hall on April 22nd between 2pm and 4.30pm. It's a chance for all our friends and supporters to get together socially after the disruption of the last few years. If anyone else is interested in our group and would like to see what we make and where we send it, they would be most welcome to come and join us. Tea, coffee and cake will be available.

Accordion concert with Robert Whitehead

There will be a concert with Robert Whitehead and his world-class accordion on 26th of April at 2pm in the Greenhead Village Hall. Tickets £6 per person, including refreshments.

Gilsland rocks!

Cumberland Geological Society are holding a field trip around Gilsland on Sunday April 23rd. These field trips are open to the public, and while the Society tries to ensure safety for all, participants are responsible for themselves and should consider whether they are able to take part. Meet at Meg's at 10am. Transport will be needed, please car share where possible, and a packed lunch is recommended as the trip will last until 4pm. The trip will be led by Ian Jackson, author of "Northumberland Rocks" and "Cumbrian Rocks", and Steve Rozario. The trip will visit Crammel Linn, Kingwater, and the Spa Woods to view and discuss some of the fascinating geology of the Gilsland area. More details here <https://bit.ly/GilslandRocks>.

Dominoes night to restart

Dominoes will take place every 2nd Tuesday of the month. The first session will be 9th May at 7pm. £2.50 for the games including a light refreshment and a raffle.

Taize for Easter

The Taize Choir from Carlisle Cathedral will be leading the singing at a special service in St Mary Magdalene's to prepare for Easter on Monday 3rd April starting at 6.30pm. Taize is meditative chants, repeated many times to induce a sense of calm prayerfulness.

Up the creek

Words by Lauren Harrison. Pictures by Liam McNulty.



After watching Paul Whitehouse's BBC programme, 'Our Troubled Rivers' (on iPlayer), about the state of our rivers since utilities were privatised, we wanted to know how this related to us in Gilsland. We were shocked to discover that the Gilsland waste water treatment works storm overflow spilled 109 times in 2021, discharging untreated sewage into the Irthing for a total of 651 hours. This is the equivalent of discharging continuously for almost the whole of February or nearly 2 hours every single day, and puts it in the worst category across the UK.

The purpose of storm overflows is that during extreme downpours, sewage works can discharge into rivers to prevent flooding from overwhelmed sewers backing up. Clearly the Gilsland storm overflow is being regularly used outside extreme weather events. This suggests a chronic lack of infrastructure spending which has left the sewage works unable to keep up with long term changes to our village.

We asked United Utilities, who are responsible for the Gilsland waste water treatment works, what plans they have to upgrade the sewage works to prevent this discharge in the future. Kevin Sayer told us that, unfortunately, there is nothing concrete at present, although Gilsland is one of the sites included in their spending plan for 2025 to 2030. If this is approved by Defra, United Utilities will then produce detailed proposals for future works.

United Utilities supply over 200,000 households and brought in a revenue of £1.86 billion in the year ending March 2022, with a reported profit of £610 million. Their CEO, Steve Mogford, was paid nearly £3.2 million in the same year and the company paid over £4.2 million in bonuses. Company business plans, including executive pay and bonuses, are regulated by Ofwat. Some of these bonuses are supposed to be for rewarding good environmental performance, which seems at odds with the shocking stories related in Our Troubled Rivers, and indeed the performance of the treatment works in Gilsland.

Both of our local Conservative MPs, Guy Opperman and Neil Hudson (pictured above), voted in January to allow water companies to continue dumping sewage into our rivers and seas for another 15 years.

Continued on page 6...

Up the creek (continued from page 5)

Elizabeth Radford, CEO of the Eden Rivers Trust says:

"Waste water effluent is the second largest pollution source for the River Eden after agricultural run off, and there are serious deficiencies in the water cleaning process across the whole of Eden's river catchment. Considering this (the River Irving) is a site of special scientific interest and one of international conservation significance this really is not good enough. The nutrients and sediment in the sewage cause several problems. Too many nutrients in water cause blooms of algae and fungus, when bacteria decompose this algae they take oxygen from the water causing insects, crayfish and fish to die, this will have a knock on effect on the food chain. The fine sediment and fungus smothers the river bed blocking light and changing important gravel and stony habitat. Sewage waste also contains harmful bacteria and viruses. Together this persistent cocktail of pollutants and contaminants slowly overwhelms and destroys the river."

We'd love to hear your thoughts on this and what, if anything, we can do to try to improve the situation. For example, the Rivers Trust has launched a campaign called 'Together for Rivers' to get people working together to improve the quality of our rivers for swimming, angling and wildlife. We might also, as individuals, consider writing to our MPs, Ofwat, the Environment Agency and United Utilities itself.

Please email us on gilslandmag@outlook.com with thoughts or suggestions and watch this space for further updates.

Useful contacts/resources:

- Guy Opperman MP: members.parliament.uk/member/4142/contact
- Neil Hudson MP: members.parliament.uk/member/4853/contact
- Ofwat: ofwat.gov.uk/contact-us
- The Rivers Trust: theriverstrust.org/together-for-rivers
- Environment Agency: gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency
- United Utilities: unitedutilities.com/help-and-support/contact-us
- Eden River Trust: www.edenrivertrust.org.uk/act-for-eden

Pointless local embarrasses himself on telly

By a very silly boy



Chris Cantrill, local resident and winner of the Gilsland Parents Race 2021, crashed out of the first round of Pointless and looked like a bit of a wally on national telly.

Just a reminder, I'm trotting out some new material in the Village Hall on 22nd April (had to move the original date!) You can get tickets on the door or guarantee a seat online by visiting <https://bit.ly/GilslandComedy>. It's a bring your own booze affair and I'm working on getting a warm-up act to do a bit, so it's not just me going "eeeeeeerm". Please come!

(Left) Yorkshire's biggest idiot.



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The Scypen farm Dairy Shop

Art at Slack House Organic Farm
Still life workshop with Tanya Fionn

Saturday 13th May, 10am to 3pm.

Join Tanya Fionn and discover the art of Still Life painting. The workshop is suitable for all abilities, as participants will be guided throughout the process. Any medium can be used as participants will bring their own materials. Organic lunch and refreshments will be provided throughout the session.

*Session fee £30 per person. To book or for details contact Jill
slackhouseevents@yahoo.com*



Slack House Organic Farm,
Gilsland, Brampton, CA8 7DB
Tel: 07900 472 342
Email: slackhouseorganicfarm@gmail.com

Milkshakes or malt whisky? Sarnies or steak?

By SOSamson

These are some of the suggestions given to us at our Community Engagement Event last month... Haven't had your say? Not to worry, you can complete our online survey until 16th April, go to our Facebook page fb.com/sosamsoninn. Whatever your thoughts on what food and drink you would like served and much more... We want to know.

Thank you to everyone who attended our event, it was lovely to see you and hear your wishes – around 50 people, a dog and a cat attended! It was fabulous to see a younger generation giving us their thoughts. After all, how many of you in the village started your working lives waiting tables, housekeeping or serving drinks in the village.

In next months magazine we will be reporting our results – meanwhile continue to follow us on Facebook and in The Village Hall to keep up to date of developments. We will be sharing all the results with The Bridge Inn as they look to the future for their business and are chatting with them about how we may be able to help as a Community Group. You can contact them at the bridgeinngilisland@gmail.com or follow them on Facebook.

Magazine distribution update

By the Editorial Team

We've had a couple of queries from people who haven't been getting their copy of the magazine hand-delivered. We also struggled getting last month's edition out on time as our regular printer was out of commission, as was the backup, as was the backup's backup! A bit of a nightmare, but the great news is that we've taken steps to make sure it's easier than ever to get your hands on a copy of the Gilsland Village Magazine!

From April we'll be increasing the number of copies that can be found in communal spaces to ensure that residents can still get their hands on the Gilsland Village Magazine, even if there isn't a volunteer delivering to your door. You can find extra editions of the magazine in **House of Meg Tearooms**, the **Bridge Inn** and the **Village Hall**.

Online editions are now available!

We're excited to announce that digital copies of the Gilsland Village Magazine will be available online from the 1st of the month. We have no plans to stop the printed edition, this is something we've done to make sure there's one less barrier to reading all our lovely local news. All you need to do is type gilslandvillagemagazine.co.uk into your internet browser!

Can you deliver the magazine?

If the magazine isn't delivered to your area, would you consider taking on a delivery role to help spread the word? If you can help, just drop us an email to gilslandmag@outlook.com.

WHO'S WHO

Carlisle City Councillors: Brampton & Fellside

Mike Mitchelson

Cumbria County Councillor

Mike Mitchelson, 0169772871

Northumberland County Councillor

Alan Sharp, Office: 01434693693, Home: 01434320167, Mobile: 07759665200

Thirlwall Parish Council

Chair: Sue Seymour 47359,
sue@mosspectral.com
Vice Chair: Judith Armstrong
Clerk: clerk@thirlwallparishcouncil.org
Councillors: Emma Guerrero,
Paul Jameson, Mark Barwick

Waterhead Parish Council

Chair: David Rackstraw
Vice Chair: <TBC>
Clerk: Sue Hatt, sue.hatt60@gmail.com
Councillors: Jovan Nicholson,
Elaine Packer

Upper Denton Parish Council

Chair: Dan Newrick
Vice Chair: Wilson Makepeace
Clerk: Sue Hatt, sue.hatt60@gmail.com

- **Knitting Group:** Brenda Smith, 47361
- **Community Coffee Morning:** Doreen Gutteridge, 47036
- **Craft Group:** Sue Maughan, 47607
- **Dominos:** Nicole Whyler, 747048
- **Folk Club Brampton:** Katy, 01228 674209
- **Gilsland Parish Church:** Alison Higgs, 47409
Rev'd Angela Hughes 2478
- **Gilsland School:** 47302
- **Greenhead School:** 47347
- **Gilsland Show secretary:** Vicky Baty, 01228 675368
- **Karate:** Ross Cruden, 47116
- **Methodist Church:** Melvyn Whatmough, 47524
- **Over 60s:** Sheila Rooney, 47015
- **Tourism Partnership:** Catherine Jarvis, 07759 020 885
- **Village Hall Committee & Bookings:** Janet Gordon, 47439
- **Village Hall:** 47968
- **WI:** Mary Riding
- **Youth Club:** Clare Hawkins, 47371

Submissions

The magazine is always looking for submissions! The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month. Submissions may be edited.

Digital copies

Digital copies of the magazine will be available from the 1st of the month at gilslandvillagemagazine.co.uk.

Credits

Thanks to the contributors and advertisers featured in this edition. This publication couldn't be produced and delivered without the help of volunteers. The magazine is co-edited by Sue Maughan and Chris Cantrill. Liam McNulty is our treasurer.

Advertising

If you're interested in advertising your product or service with us, please email gilslandmag@outlook.com.