

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@mosspeteral.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.

Gilsland Village Magazine

MAY 2023

Iron Smelting in the Irthing Gorge

By Will Higgs

Two small piles of iron slag have been spotted by Grant Armstrong in the Irthing Gorge near the Spa Hotel.

This came as a surprise to me, as I have been interested in the history of this estate for a long time, and never found any reference to smelting there. After some research, aided by Steve Rozario, it seems most likely that these are evidence of bloomeries, an ancient, small-scale method of extracting iron which was practised until the industrial revolution and the invention of blast furnaces made them obsolete.

A possible source of ore might have been bog iron from marshy fields and chalybeate or iron-rich springs, using fuel from charcoal which is likely to have been produced in the woods. All fairly speculative – comments welcome!



An Easter success!

By the Coffee Morning

Huge thanks to everyone who came to the Easter Coffee Morning. It was a great success! It was lovely to see so many people, both young and more mature. Our youngest attendee was Martin and Emma's, beautiful new baby girl.

Congratulations from all of us! Thanks also to the bakers for providing a wonderful spread and Ivan for his musical accompaniment. The Gilsland Coffee Morning takes place every week on a Monday between 10.30am - 12.30pm. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you!

New DNV Testing Information Line and Alert Notification System

By Jeremy Lawton, Control Manager DNV

DNV have recently launched their new Testing Information Line which will provide up to date information on any tests scheduled that may produce sufficient noise to be audible outside of their site boundary. The number to call is 01697 921 892 with all calls charged at a local rate. This line is updated every morning and following any changes to the previously advertised activity.

If anybody from Gilsland or the surrounding areas wishes to receive more tailored information the site has also started offering a text/email/voice call service which sends the recipients a notification when there is any activity on site that may produce noise. If you wish to sign up to this service, or simply require more information, please email the DNV Control Manager, Mr Jeremy Lawton (jeremy.lawton@dnv.com), stating your preferred communication method.

Refuse, recycling & bin collections

Northumberland County Council

- General: 12th & 25th May
- Recycling: 5th & 18th May

View the full calendar at:

northumberland.gov.uk/waste

Haltwhistle household recycling

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

Carlisle City Council

- General & Garden: 2nd, 15th & 30th May
- Recycling: 8th & 22nd May

View the full calendar at:

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

Gilsland Methodist

Services start at 10.30am unless otherwise stated.

- 07/05 | Songs of Praise service
- 14/05 | Communion service, Brampton
- 21/05 | Morning service, Brampton
- 28/05 | Songs of Praise service

St. Mary Magdalene

07/05 | 9.30 Holy Communion,
Nether Denton (Coronation Weekend)
14/05 | 9.30 Holy Communion, Gilsland
21/05 | 9.30 Morning Worship,
Nether Denton
28/05 | 9.30am Pentecost Holy Communion,
Gilsland

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Sun: 10am - 3pm
Wed: Closed

www.houseofmeg.co.uk

Gilsland is now part of the #QueensGreenCanopy

By Clare Hawkins



(Above) *It's a grower.*

A cherry tree (kindly donated by the Village Hall) has been planted at the bus stop as part of a network to create a greener UK and a legacy in honour of the Queen's leadership of the nation.

Check out www.queensgreencanopy.org
(Note, the tree 'pin' on the virtual map will be randomised within a 1km radius of the tree's actual location, to protect privacy).

We plan to complement the existing bus stop and its mosaic by creating a bird/bee/insect-friendly roman inspired green space.

Gilsland Youth Club, Mosaic Group and Village Hall are ready to help out, but we need some more help! We are looking for any of the following:

- Plant/cutting donations: Buddleia, dog rose, sage, thyme, oregano, sweet violets, marigolds, borage, lemon balm, valerian house leeks, mahonia, lavender, alyssum, sweet Williams, aubretia, Wallflowers, pinks delphiniums or sedum.
- Existing fence, someone with the skills to make repairs.
- Volunteers to help with planting and tidying the space.
- Cash to help with costs which we can't cover with donated items. To make a donation visit <https://www.paypal.me/GVillageHall> and use 'busstop' as a reference and click the 'friend & family' option.

When the work is complete, with the support of Thirlwall Parish Council, we aim to enter the bus stop into the Royal Horticultural Society/Northumbria in Bloom "It's Your Neighbourhood Awards" 2023.

Works will be completed through May, if you would like to help, get in touch Clarehawkinsemail1977@gmail.com or 47371, or look out for posters and Facebook updates.



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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

VILLAGE HALL

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

Across this spring and summer, the Village Hall will be having some work done to keep it running in good order. From 27th May the upstairs hall will not be available for one week due to re-decoration all groups should have been advised. Downstairs will be open as usual. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

A big thank you to Shaun Storey for his help in getting a new computer set up not only for use by the hall committee, groups, and clubs. It was always intended to support people in the area that may not have access to a PC, Wi-Fi, or the Internet. If you need any time on the PC, please contact the hall committee for a chat about access. Janet tel 47439.

DIARY DATES

03/05 | Community lunch, Gilsland C E Primary School. 12.10pm.
05/05 | Coronation Fête (3.30pm - 5.30pm) and Disco (7pm - 11pm).
08/05 | Coffee Morning Coronation Special, Gilsland Village Hall. 10.30am - 12.30pm.
10/05 | Thirwall Parish Council AGM & meeting, Village Hall. 7pm.
11/05 | Fire & Dough, House of Meg Tearooms, 5.30pm.
13/05 | Still Life workshop, Slack House Farm. 10am - 3pm.
13/05 | Macmillan plant sale, Irthing Park. 10.30am - 1pm.
14/05 | Hadrian's Wall Farmers Market, Greenhead, 10am - 2pm.
26/05 | Fools Gold, Gilsland Village Hall. 6.15pm (Doors), 7pm (Start).
27/05 | Village Hall closes for maintenance.
23/06 | The 2023 Gilsland Parents Day Race Showdown...



Hadrian's Wall Farmers Market returns

Greenhead's farmers market returns on Sunday 14th May, between 10am to 2pm. Prime planting time so stock up on the lovely plants for sale. Crafts, food and drink are all direct from local producers. Home-made refreshments while you shop.

Fire & Dough Pizzas return

This month, Fire & Dough will be bringing their award-winning pizza to House of Meg on 11th May. The menu will be available a week in advance.



The Macmillan plant sale returns!

The plant sale in aid of a good cause returns on 13th May, between 10.30am and 1pm. The sale takes place in Gilsland at 20 Irthing Park and we hope you can support us again. We have more than 200 plants ready, with more arriving.

Gilsland WI presents 'The History of the Accordion'

The next meeting of the Gilsland WI will be held in the Village Hall at 7pm (for a 7.15pm start) on 2nd May. Alan Beadle is passionate about his accordion playing and will present a history of the instrument. Alan will be bringing along various accordions to aid his demonstration.

An evening of music, intrigue and fun with 'Fools Gold'

At 7pm on Friday 26th May 2023, Gilsland Village Hall will be hosting 'Dark Light', an evening of music, intrigue, and fun with musical duo 'Fools Gold'.

In 1900, three lighthouse men mysteriously disappear, no-one knows what happened. The audience is invited to solve the mystery - with live music both original and contemporary, it's surprising how many songs you will know. There's humour and plenty of head scratching too - can you solve the mystery of Flannan Lighthouse? Bring your own bottle and nibbles, some soft drinks and crisps available to buy. Funds raised for Cumbria Cerebral Palsy and 50% of raffle to SOSamson.

Doors open at 6.15pm. £6 per ticket available from Janet Gordon/Gilsland Village Hall Monday Coffee morning or to reserve and collect on the night just message your name and number of tickets to 07312 114774 or email gilslandhallcommittee@gmail.com.

Coronation fete!

A fundraising fête to celebrate the King's coronation will be held at Gilsland Village School on 5th May between 3.30pm and 5.30pm. There will be a cake competition, a penalty kick off and crown making (courtesy of Amanda at Green Croft Arts). There will also be hot dogs. Please come along and support our wonderful school.

King Charles III Coronation Disco!

Gilsland Village is proud to announce that we are hosting a Coronation Disco for all the family on Friday 5th May! Family fun, games, music, dancing, food, raffle and an optional dress code, wear red white or blue with a prize for best dressed. The disco is taking place in the Gilsland Village Hall between 7pm and 11pm. It's a bring your own booze event and there will be hot dogs in buns (vegetarian option available). Tickets are free but please book in advance so we have numbers for food. Book online at www.greencroftonthewall.com or text Amanda on 07944 994405. This event has been financially supported by Thirlwall Parish Council.



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Coronation Special Coffee Morning!

Gilsland Community Coffee Morning are having a coronation special coffee morning in the Village Hall on Monday 8th May between 10.30am and 12.30pm. All are welcome!

A reminder about dog waste

We've received a complaint about the dog mess around Gilsland, especially along Rosehill going towards Irthing House. If you're a dog owner, please be considerate of others and pick up your animal's poop.

Timber haulage update

We've heard from Tilhill that timber haulage will commence on the 8th May 2023. Convoing will again be provided by NCC. Based on the estimated tonnage, Tilhill hopes to complete the timber haulage within a ten-week period. Traffic Management will be dismantled as soon as haulage is completed, and all efforts will be made to conclude within the original estimate. If you have any questions please get in touch with Luke Wheeler. Luke's email is luke.wheeler@tilhill.com and his number is 07825 082 676.

Date for the next Thirwall Parish Council AGM & Meeting

The next Thirwall Parish Council AGM and meeting will take place at 7pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

• • •

The Gilsland Parents' race cometh...

By Chris Cantrill (winner of the Gilsland Parents' Race 2021)

The date has been set for the 2023 Gilsland C of E Primary School Sports Day. On 23rd June at 2pm, the community will come together to watch our youngest residents partake in a wholesome afternoon of obstacle courses and three-legged races. As has become tradition, the event will be closed with the Parents' Race which last year was dogged by controversy when the win was illegally snatched by Cameron Barwick.

It's not clear exactly why Mr Barwick, a teenager who doesn't have a child at the school, was allowed to enter the Parents' race but his presence undoubtedly made a mockery of this once respected sporting event.

As this year's Parents' Race approaches, many questions still remain. Will Cameron have the audacity to try and defend his stolen title? Will 2021's undisputed champion rise from the ashes like the phoenix to reclaim his title? Will the younger dads still stand by the gates pretending they're too cool to get involved?

Only time will tell, but it's already looking certain to be the highlight of Gilsland's sporting calendar...

Regarding the future of St Mary Magdalene, Gilsland's Parish Church

By Alison Higgs

Gilsland church currently has 2 services a month with a congregation of 3 or fewer. Our Vicar, Angela Hughes, has care of 4 churches, the people of 3 parishes and 3 C of E schools, all of which she visits most weeks. She lives in Lanercost Priory, is not paid a salary and works 3 days a week.

Who pays for the running and upkeep of a church?

People who give money to that church. There is no money paid to parish churches by the Church of England, the government or any other organisation. In our case, all the costs of the church are paid for by five households who give regularly and, in addition, occasional small donations placed in the plate. Since the start of covid, occasional donations have dropped dramatically. Some money is paid to Gilsland church for weddings (very rare occurrences) and funerals (fortunately also infrequent). There have been occasional grants of money towards the upkeep of the churchyard made by the three parish councils but in no year has this covered the actual cost.

In the last 10 years, we've spent £31,000 on necessary repairs, paid for by a bequest fund which is diminishing rapidly. Last year there was a running cost deficit of £2k which had to come from this fund. This situation cannot go on for much longer.

Keeping the church safe and running

There is a considerable amount of work involved in maintaining and running the church which is shouldered by the members, currently three.

Is the church needed anymore?

Can we justify all this work and money for a congregation of just two or three days a month?

What are the consequences of Gilsland church closing?

It would be put up for sale. Part of the churchyard not already used for burial would have to be used to give vehicular access. The church would no longer be available for funerals. Burials could continue but space would be very limited. If there is no sale the building would be demolished.

What could keep Gilsland church going?

- More people worshipping there
- More people helping with the work (more about this in the next issue)
- More money so we break even
- More people just visiting, spending time there and signing the book to let us know the church is of value

And the future?

We will continue to keep the church going for a further year and make a decision about its future next Easter. So, over to you, help the church, so it's there when you need it. Use it or lose it. If you would like to help, please contact Alison Higgs on 47409 or Rev'd Angela Hughes on 2478.

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