

# Gilsland Village Magazine

## GILSLAND TO FEATURE IN CELEBRATED HISTORIAN'S NEW BOOK

Renowned historian and the author of over 40 internationally published books, Alistair Moffat's next work will feature Gilsland as he explores the region in the wake of the end of Roman rule.

*By Alistair Moffat, Historian and Author*

Variety is the spice of my writing life. Since the completion of my new History of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, I've begun a new project that begins a long way south of the mountains and the glens. The story will move through countryside familiar to readers of this newsletter and here is an excerpt from the extended treatment I will work from. The book will be called *Living Among the Ruins: Britain After Britannia*.

*Some time in the 8th or 9th centuries an unknown English bard composed an elegy. He mourned the departure of glory, the decay of an ancient city and the silencing of bustling streets, squares and public baths where prosperity had once flourished, where soldiers in their 'gold-bright' war splendour 'proud and flushed with wine...looked at treasure, at wealth, at jewelry'. Known as The Ruin, the poem begins:*

*This masonry is wondrous;  
Fates broke it,  
Courtyard pavements were smashed;  
The work of giants is decaying.  
Roofs are fallen, ruinous towers,  
The frosty gate with frost on cement is ravaged,  
Chipped roofs are torn, fallen,  
Undermined by old age.  
The grasp of the earth possesses the mighty builders,  
Perished and fallen,  
The hard grasp of earth,  
Until a hundred generations of people have departed.*

*Copied on both sides of a single page in the Exeter Book, a 10th century codex of Old English poetry, some of The Ruin is illegible, the words obliterated by a long burn mark. But the sentiments are clear. The poem is a lament for the passing of the province of Britannia, for the fading might and prestige of Rome, for the loss of its power and its wealth. Four centuries after the Western Empire collapsed, the ruins of Roman Britain were still standing, still impressive and clearly to be marvelled at. And they were enormously influential. As Britannia became Britain, the after-glow of romanitas, Roman-ness, helped shape its successor kingdoms, their institutions and their sense of themselves – and our sense of ourselves. In the 5th, 6th and 7th centuries, it was clear that a golden age had passed, but few understood its history or its institutions.*

**[continued on page 5]**

---

## BIN DAYS

---

### **Northumberland County Council**

General waste: 12th & 26th  
Recycling: 5th & 19th  
View the full calendar at:  
[Northumberland.gov.uk/waste](http://Northumberland.gov.uk/waste)

### **Haltwhistle household recycling**

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

### **Cumberland Council**

Refuse and garden: 2nd, 16th & 20th  
Recycling: 9th & 23rd  
View the full calendar at:  
[Carlisle.gov.uk/residents/bins-and-recycling](http://Carlisle.gov.uk/residents/bins-and-recycling)

### **Brampton household recycling**

10am to 6pm, every day except  
Tuesday

---

## CHURCH SERVICES

---

### **Gilsland Methodist**

*Services start at 10.30 unless stated*  
Sunday 1st our Harvest Service at 2.30  
pm with Rev'd Tokunbo Asogbon  
Sunday 15th Morning Service with  
Rev'd Paul Beard

### **St. Mary Magdalene**

*Services start at 9.30 unless stated*  
8th Morning Worship  
22nd Holy Communion  
170th Birthday Celebration at 3pm on  
6th OCTOBER with Bishop Rob,  
followed by birthday refreshments

---

## HAPPY 170th BIRTHDAY ST MARY MAG!

*By Alison Higgs*

People are often surprised to find that Gilsland's Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene is so far from the village. Recently someone asked me if there had once been a mediaeval village surrounding the church, perhaps deserted during the Black Death. The truth is not as dramatic. The church is there because it was built on the land belonging to the man who paid the princely sum of £800 for it to be built - Sir George Mounsey, owner of the Shaws Hotel (better known now as Gilsland Spa Hotel). It was he who founded the church 170 years ago for the people of the village and, of course, his staff and hotel guests.

Until that time the four hamlets that came to form the present village of Gilsland were in the parish of Over Denton and those who wanted to go to church (everyone was expected to) had to walk the mile and a half to the little Saxon church, now closed and hidden away between the river and the railway. Not only did Mounsey arrange and pay for the building of St Mary Magdalene, he also saw to the rebuilding of St Cuthbert, Nether Denton and gave an endowment to pay for the stipend of a vicar to serve both.

St Mary Magdalene was dedicated on 3rd October 1854 and for 170 years has served the community as a place to give thanks, to celebrate happy events, mark the seasons of the year, say goodbye to loved ones and grieve - a place of quiet and tranquillity for residents and visitors alike.

You are invited to the Birthday Celebration Service at 3pm on October 6th with Bishop Rob and music by Amici followed by tea and birthday cake!

---

## BULLETIN BOARD

---

### **Hadrian's Wall Farmers Market**

Join us at Greenhead Village Hall on Sunday 8th September, 10am to 2pm to enjoy the produce of the summer and prepare for autumn. Food, drink, baking, crafts and plants all direct from the person who made them. Delicious home-made refreshments too.

### **Gilsland Village Hall Dominoes**

Come and join us on 10th September for our monthly Dominoes night in the hall. The evening starts at 19.00 prompt. The session fee is £3 which includes a lovely supper midway during the evening. There is also a raffle and prizes so why not come along. Everyone is welcome to join us. Give it a try!

### **Ukes Akimbo**

At St Cuthberts, Greenhead on September 14th at 7pm. £8 including refreshments. Contact Elsie 02697747473 mob 07796103000

### **Gilsland Methodist Chapel Harvest Service**

On Sunday 1st September at 2.30pm. Led by Rev'd Tokunbo Asogbon, with plenty of harvest hymns and followed by light refreshments. Collection shared between MacMillan Cancer Care, JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) and chapel funds.

### **Gilsland W.I.**

The next meeting is on 1st October at 19.00. We are pleased to be having a talk and demonstration from Happy Herdwick Felting. Any non-members are welcome to attend for a £3 guest fee. This includes a lovely supper. If you would like to attend please let Doreen Gutteridge know on 016977 47036 so we know how many to cater for.

### **The New Hadrian Singers**

We're impatient after the summer break to be singing again! The last time we did was on the Main Stage at the Washington New Town's festival, celebrating its 60th birthday - which we did by singing a great set of Sixties songs - wearing some fantastic Sixties outfits! This was the same week we'd spent a delightful summery evening with the Lees Hill W.I. We're versatile. New members are always very welcome - any age, any ability, no auditions. We meet on Fridays, mostly\* at 7pm, in the Community Room at the Haltwhistle Hospital.

\*if our talented Leader, Lyndsay Hannan, has a gig of her own that night, choir can be in the afternoon. Singing together in a choir - we love it! Come and join us!

---

## WEEKLY EVENTS

---

### **Mondays**

- Community Coffee Morning | Village Hall | 10.30am - 12.30pm
- Youth club | Village Hall | 6.00pm - 7.30pm (from 23rd Sept)

### **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
- Drama group | Village Hall | 7.00pm

### **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
- Art / Drawing group | Village Hall | 1.30pm - 4.00pm
- Yoga | Haltwhistle Leisure Centre | 7.15pm - 8.15pm

### **Saturdays**

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

---

## DIARY DATES

---

01/09 | Gilsland Methodist Church | Harvest Service | 2.30pm

05/09 | Samson Inn | GCB SL meeting | 7.30pm

08/09 | Greenhead Village Hall | Hadrian's Wall Farmers' Market | 10am - 2pm

09/09 | Gilsland Village Hall | Rington's van | Mid morning

10/09 | Gilsland Village Hall | Dominoes night | 7.00pm

11/10 | Haltwhistle Community Room | Haltwhistle Heritage and History | 10.30am

11/09 | Gilsland Village Hall | Thirlwall Parish Council meeting | Evening

14/09 | St Cuthberts, Greenhead | Ukes Akimbo | 7pm

23/09 | Gilsland Village Hall | Rington's van | Mid morning

01/10 | Gilsland Village Hall | WI : Happy Herdwick Felting | 7pm

## GILSLAND TO FEATURE IN CELEBRATED HISTORIAN'S NEW BOOK

By Alistair Moffat, Historian and Author **(continued from front page)**

*In the shadow of Hadrian's Wall, the largest Roman monument in the world, this story both begins and ends. Living Among the Ruins will take readers on a journey that reveals how Britannia was one of the foundations of early Britain, that it was not obliterated by centuries of immigration and conquest, or forgotten. Beginning at Jarrow, near the mouth of the River Tyne, at the monastery where Bede, the first scholarly British historian, wrote the magisterial, definitive 'Ecclesiastical History of the English People' in the early 8th century, we travel westwards along the length of the Wall, pausing particularly at Birdoswald, Greenhead and the old Roman city of Carlisle. In the tumbledown forts and towns along the Wall, a new and unexpected story of Rome and Britain will be revealed. And a journey along old roads will reveal old perspectives.*

The book should be done by the end of 2025 and published in 2026 if, as my grannie was over-fond of saying, we are all spared.

---

You can explore more of Alistair's work at <https://alistairmoffat.wordpress.com/> and his books are available in all good bookshops.

---

## THE BORDER REIVERS

By Anna McNulty, (former) Gilsland School pupil

The Border Reivers lived on the border in between England and Scotland. They were not very nice to the families who they lived with, apart from some who had family friends. Most of them were farmers and thieves, murderers, kidnappers and blackmailers – basically serious criminals. Punishments were harsh back then: for a petty crime (thieving) they might have lost a few fingers; for spreading lies you could get your tongue cut off; and for murder you would be executed. When Scotland and England fought they would fight too but it got a bit out of hand, they would fight anyone, including the English Reivers fighting the English or the Scottish fighting the Scottish.

There are lots of Reiver names still about today, such as: Armstrong, Nixon, Elliot, Scott, Johnston, Maxwell, Bell, Hall, Charlton, Milburn, Dodd, Robson, Graham, Noble, Irving, Irvine, Routledge, Forster, Rutherford, Croser, Musgrave, Dacre, Carleton, Ridley, Salkeld and many more. If you have one of these surnames you may well have notorious Border Reiver ancestors, I think it is really interesting that there are so many people with these names in the village, just where they would have originated. Kinmont Willie Armstrong was probably one of the most famous and notorious Border Reivers. From a very young age he was in the saddle and on raids. He was arrested and locked up in Carlisle Castle on 13th March, 1596, on the day of truce when nobody could be arrested and everybody could meet to discuss deals and treaties. However, he got out with the help of his rescuers on the inside of the castle (which at the time was a prison for cattle thieves). He wasn't locked in a dungeon in chains, he was held in a room in the outer ward so it was easier get him out.

## SAMSON INN A STEP CLOSER TO REOPENING

*By Jane McDaid, GCBSL*

Since becoming the proud owners of The Samson, over 50 volunteers came to help with the clean and tidy over two very busy days. Helpers travelled from: Whitehaven, Leeds, Sunderland & Manchester; as well as from the locality. Everyone did a fantastic job and enjoyed a good laugh and a huge buffet! We have had donations of pots of plants (Lynn), shrubs and plants (Haltwhistle Garden Centre) and cleaning materials (Jan Kippex) to help volunteers to wield mops, hoovers, paint brushes, squirty stuff, rubber gloves, mallets and Mr Scrubbies! There were heavy lifters, gardeners, painters and demolition experts! The pub, and its surroundings, now look very different and we are one big step closer to opening! A thank you to everyone who gave up their time to come along and help - you have made a huge difference.

The building works are progressing nicely and those who pass the pub regularly will see the great progress being made. The management committee have now offered the tenancy to one of the candidates. Once the legal processes are completed, we look forward to introducing the tenant to the community.

The next meeting is on the 5th September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Samson Inn - all welcome.

---

## HALTWHISTLE HISTORY & HERITAGE GROUP NEWS

*By Wendy Bond*

The Autumn programme of meetings starts on Wednesday, 11th September in our usual spot - the comfortable Community Room at the Hospital, at 10.30 am.

This month we welcome Vicky and Mark from the Haltwhistle Film Project to show us the results of their work transferring an amazing set of photographs from ancient glass plates into a digital format. Come and spot your ancestors - or marvel at the range of activities that took place in Haltwhistle when the town was booming in the very early 20th century!



### **The Samson Inn are Recruiting!!**

**Pub Cook / Chef**  
*would consider job share*

**Kitchen Support\***

**Apprentice Chef**

**Front of House Staff\***

**Cleaner / Housekeeper**

**Apprentice FoH Supervisor**

Please forward your CV to  
[thesamsoninnngilsland@gmail.com](mailto:thesamsoninnngilsland@gmail.com)

All roles available both Full Time & Part Time  
Positions marked \* will accept applications from  
14 years and above

Apprenticeship include full college training and  
qualification at A Level or above

## COLD TO COSY FOR ALL CA8 POSTCODES

*By Janet Gordon*

The Cold to Cosy Homes Project by Cumbria Action for Sustainability offers free, independent energy saving advice to help you make your home warmer and cheaper to heat. Any house, flat, farms and conversions into homes can qualify.

They are fully funded by the council and do not sell you anything. Once their expert has visited they highlight issues, give advice and can help with some free work and equipment. They will also help you apply for funds if you are eligible for more extensive projects.

Although they serve Cumbria I have asked their Project Officer Maria Appleton and she has advised that anyone in the Gilsland area with a CA8 postcode can apply, even if they are on the Northumberland side of the village.

The criteria to qualify for a free visit is very wide so if you fall into any of these categories give them a call: Anyone in your home over the age of 65, anyone with any health conditions including recently attended hospital after a fall. Mental health, learning and sensory disabilities. Receiving benefits or your gross income is less than £30,000. Just give them a call on 01768 216 500 between 10am and 3pm, Monday – Friday. Or see website [cafs.or.uk](http://cafs.or.uk)

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Plumbing & Heating Engineer



Based in Gilsland

Gas, Oil, LPG & Solid Fuel.

Commercial Plumbing & Oil Work undertaken.

Bespoke bathrooms, Underfloor Heating,  
Pressurised Cylinders , Radiator Replacements,  
Tiling, Shower Boarding.  
Swift Emergency Responses

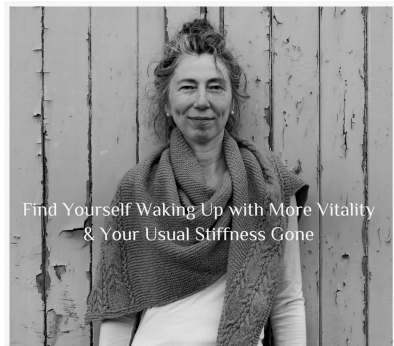


Tel: 07861794061

Email: [luke@lafengineering.com](mailto:luke@lafengineering.com)



### Somatic Movement



Find out More...  
Contact Karen Meyer

T: 07515 884 640  
E: [movingincomfort@gmail.com](mailto:movingincomfort@gmail.com)

[www.movingincomfort.co.uk](http://www.movingincomfort.co.uk)

## CLASSIFIEDS

### P.D. Kennedy Electricals Ltd.

We undertake all types of  
industrial/domestic work, plus  
electrical installation and repairs.

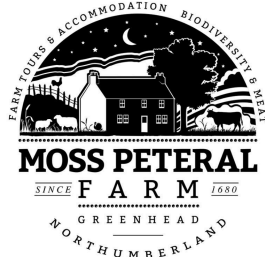
For a free estimate tel/fax:  
01434 322 600

For out of hours emergencies tel:  
07778 378 716



Unit 6A  
Haltwhistle  
Industrial Estate  
Northumberland  
NE49 9HA

[www.pdkennedyelectricals.co.uk](http://www.pdkennedyelectricals.co.uk)



Pasture-fed beef from  
Galloway cattle born and  
reared at Moss Pederal.

Available with free local  
delivery, value boxes and  
bespoke orders.

07935 259 416  
SUE@MOSSPETERAL.COM  
CA8 7HY

[WWW.MOSSPETERAL.COM](http://WWW.MOSSPETERAL.COM)

### ROBERT TIO

Good Customer Care & Eco-Friendly  
Phone: 07419990604 / 016977-47425  
[parknookplumbing@gmail.com](mailto:parknookplumbing@gmail.com)

#### Plumbing, Heating & Tiling Services:

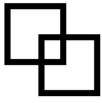
- Refurbishment of bathrooms, kitchens & utility rooms
  - Heating (radiators, pipe-work, etc.)
- Installation of safe products for the disabled and/or elderly to NHS standards
  - Sourcing for specialist or beautiful designer products
  - Emergency call-outs

#### Qualified plumber with 20 years' experience:

- Approved contractor/plumber with Northumbria Water & United Utilities
- Registered with WaterSafe scheme & Building Engineering Services



## CLASSIFIEDS



### **Kennedy Storage**

Secure self storage for businesses  
and households.

**CCTV MONITORED  
24/7 EAST ACCESS  
LOW COST  
EASY TO USE  
FLEXIBLE TERMS**

For prices and availability call us on  
01434 322 600, 07778 378 716 or  
email [peter@kennedystorage.co.uk](mailto:peter@kennedystorage.co.uk)

[www.kennedystorage.co.uk](http://www.kennedystorage.co.uk)



Professional, independent  
painter and decorator,  
clean and reliable service  
based in Gilsland.

**DUSTLESS SANDING  
WALLPAPERING  
FULLY INSURED**

Contact Dave:  
07725952543

# **House of Meg Tea Rooms**

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

Visit our Facebook page for more information about  
upcoming food van visits!



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

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



Houseofmegtearooms

## CLASSIFIEDS

### **WILD BIRD SEED & MUCH MORE!**



Poltross Enterprises are the region's wild bird food specialists as well as stockists of a wide range of animal foods and accessories for dogs, cats, poultry, small animals and horses.

We also sell quality peat-free compost and even offer a free delivery service!

**POLTROSS ENTERPRISES**  
Unit 8b, West End Ind Estate,  
Haltwhistle, NE49 9HA  
Tel: 01434 321111  
Open: Mon, Tue, Thur & Sat



- Chopping Boards
- Serving Boards
- Key Holders
- Planters
- Coffee Tables
- Wine Racks

Get in touch for any custom enquiries or visit me on:



@harryslittleworkshop



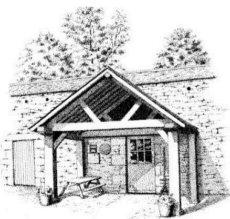
harryslittleworkshop@gmail.com

## *Slack House Farm*

**Order Milk, Yogurt, Cheeses, Eggs 24hrs in advance  
and collect any time.**

**Contact by phone on 07900472342 or email on  
slackhouseorganicfarm@gmail.com**

**SHOP OPENS Monday & Friday 11.00 to 16.00**



**Slack House Organic Farm, Gilsland, Brampton,  
CA8 7DB (near Birdoswald Roman Fort on  
Hadrian's Wall)**

# **Catherine and Nigel Jarvis wish a Happy New Year to all!**

We are currently developing a new programme of History Tours, Talk and Roman Experiences to run alongside our luxury B&B accommodation.



Exploring Hadrian's Wall and the Pennine Way



**07805 349 836/07759 020 885**

**[www.hadriansholidays.com](http://www.hadriansholidays.com)**

**Katie McClure**  cumbrian optical company

*A local optician providing eye-care for the whole family*

**Offering a range of services including:**

Eye tests

Contact lenses

OCT

Myopia management

Visual stress testing

Frames & sunglasses

Tel: 016977 2214 / Email: [reception@cumbrianeyes.com](mailto:reception@cumbrianeyes.com)

Front Street, Brampton, CA8 1NS

**[www.cumbrianopticalcompany.co.uk](http://www.cumbrianopticalcompany.co.uk)**

---

## WHO'S WHO

---

### **Carlisle City Councillors: Brampton & Fellside**

Mike Mitchelson

### **Cumbria County Councillor**

Mike Mitchelson, 01697772871

### **Northumberland County Councillor**

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

### **Thirlwall Parish Council**

Chair: Sue Seymour 07935259416, sue@mosspectral.com

Vice Chair: Judith Armstrong

Clerk: clerk@thirlwallparishcouncil.org

Councillors: Emma Guerrero, Paul

Jameson, Owen Wilkins

### **Waterhead Parish Council**

Chair: David Rackstraw

Vice Chair: Jovan Nicholson

Clerk: Sue Hatt, sue.hatt60@gmail.com

Councillors: John Woodmass-Calvert

### **Upper Denton Parish Council**

Chair: Dan Newrick

Vice Chair: Tim Gordon

Clerk: Sue Hatt, sue.hatt60@gmail.com

Councillors: Mike Harris

**Knitting Group:** Brenda Smith, 47361

**Community Coffee Morning:** Doreen Gutteridge, 47036

**Craft Group:** Sue Maughan, 47607

**Dominos:** Doreen Gutteridge, 47036

**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:** 01697 543229 (New)

**WI:** Doreen Gutteridge, 47036

**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](http://gilslandvillagemagazine.co.uk). You can sign up to get an email alert when the issue is published on the Contact page of the website.

### **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 edited by Sue Maughan, Chris Cantrill and Liam McNulty (who is also Treasurer).

### **Advertising**

If you're interested in advertising your product or service with us, please email [gilslandmag@outlook.com](mailto:gilslandmag@outlook.com).