
MARCH '25

Gilsland Village Magazine

LOCAL FARMERS VISIT EUROPE WITH MISSING LYNX PROJECT

By Sue Seymour



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'What do you know about lynx?' Duncan Hutt, Director of Conservation at Northumberland Wildlife Trust, popped the question into our discussion on peatland restoration of The Wou, a SSSI which they own and I manage as an integral part of Moss Peteral. 'They've got short tails, tufted ears and spots', was all I could come up with. Duncan explained that the NWT was a

partner in the Missing Lynx Project, alongside The Lifescape Project and The Wildlife Trusts. The project has identified Kielder Forest as the most feasible area in England for re-introducing these 'slim Labrador' sized cats. Could the project's social scientist, Faye, interview me?

That was in the autumn last year. I was interviewed and subsequently attended three farmer focus groups where we learnt not only about the habits of lynx but also about how the re-introduction projects in other European countries had fared. Then came an invitation from Faye, 'Would you be interested in coming to Switzerland and Germany to meet farmers working in areas with lynx?'

On Monday 3rd Feb I and the rest of the group flew to Basel. The next morning we visited AGRIDEA, Switzerland's Livestock Protection Agency, and heard about the 50 year history of lynx reintroductions. After a delicious lunch in the agency's canteen we headed for the hills (in a very big bus along very small roads!) and met Stefan whose sheep grazed pastures at the forest edge.

Lynx are solitary, forest dwelling cats and ambush their prey, often leaping from the undergrowth as an unsuspecting deer or, occasionally, a sheep passes by. Several years ago Stefan lost a handful of sheep to lynx - and more to wolves.

The Canton authorities subsidise the cost of breeding and rearing Livestock Protection dogs; dogs which live out, year round, with the sheep, barking at and chasing off approaching predators. Since Stefan has had these dogs with his sheep, none have been lost to lynx or wolf predation - he just wishes the dogs could keep Blue Tongue at bay too! We also met two farmers in Germany both of whom raised deer, the preferred diet of lynx. Timor explained that the electric wire he'd installed on top of his deer fencing worked well. He showed us camera trap images of a lynx outside the deer enclosure and was happy that the lynx was around, that he could successfully raise deer alongside wild animals. The second farmer, Fred, was not so happy. He had also installed an electric wire on top of the deer fence (and dug in a steel mesh below to prevent wolves from getting in). The authorities paid for the materials and his electricity bill but Fred thought he should also be paid for the additional time it took him to check the fence line. But he had to admit that he hadn't lost any of his animals to lynx predation.

I am impressed with the evenhanded, thorough and honest approach of the Missing Lynx Project. Re-introducing lynx to Kielder Forest does pose a new risk to farmers but, with access to appropriate mitigation measures and long-term financial support/compensation, it's a challenge I'd be prepared to take - just to know that these charismatic creatures were back in an English wood, a country they left, maybe a thousand years ago.

GILSLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY LIMITED ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

By Jane McDaid, GCBSL

As you all know Gilsland Community Benefit Society Limited now own the Samson Inn and have granted a lease to George Campbell to operate the business. The Management Committee is now made up of Jane McDaid (Chair), David Rackstraw (Vice Chair), Nev Kirby (Treasurer), Colin Mitchell (Secretary), Alan Sharp, Alistair Bibby, Gary Dowell and Neill Weatherill (Tenant Liaison Rep (TLR)). Steve Rozario will be leaving the committee once the end of grant reporting is completed for the Community Ownership Fund.

We would like to give a huge thank you to the following who have stepped down from various roles recently; Fiona Ormsby for all her enthusiasm during the fundraising and community engagement projects, Steve Rozario for his incredible work in the 2 year funding/acquisition period as Vice Chair and Gary Dowell for continuous support and a very busy operational start up period as TLR. It couldn't have happened without you.

GCBSL will receive a regular income from The Samson Inn and net funds are to be spent in the community. New Management Committee members are required to be part of a strong team who have shown they can deliver. We would welcome new faces, fresh ideas and enthusiasm to ensure that we remain relevant and deliver for the community. We are particularly looking for a Committee Member to help deliver on our objective of using our funds to provide work-related training for young people in the village wishing to start in the hospitality business.

Management Committee members need to be Shareholders – if you are not already a shareholder the minimum shareholding is £25, and you would be joining 465 other members who support the community of Gilsland.

Please call Jane on 07970895970 for a chat about joining the Management Committee.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

BAKED FIG SPONGE PUDDING WITH BUTTERSCOTCH SAUCE

By Barrie Garton

Ingredients

- 150grms Dried Figs.
- 180mls Boiling water.
- 125grms Soft Butter
- 150grms Light Soft Brown Sugar
- 250grms Self Raising Flour
- 1tsp Vanilla Extract
- 2 whole eggs

Method

1. Cover the figs with the boiling water and leave to soak for 30mins or so.
2. Grease a baking dish/tin (or individual moulds) with hard butter and lightly dust with flour.
3. When the figs have soaked, remove from the water and dice them up, reserving the soaking liquor.
4. Cream the butter and sugar together, beat the eggs with the vanilla and slowly add to the butter mix.
5. Gradually incorporate the flour and finally the reserved soaking liquor.
6. Fold the diced figs through the batter and pour into the prepared dish.
7. Bake at 180c for 30-40 mins or until a skewer/needle comes out clean when inserted in the centre of the pudding.
8. Whilst the pudding is baking, make the Butterscotch Sauce by placing 60grms of butter, 90grms of light soft brown sugar and 150mls of double cream in a saucepan. Bring to a gentle boil for a minute or two.
9. Portion the sponge pudding and pour over the hot sauce, ideal served with thick cream, ice cream or Greek yoghurt. If you have some, honey glazed fresh figs make an excellent garnish.

This pudding could be made with other dried fruits if desired.

BRAMPTON CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF BEING A FAIRTRADE TOWN

By Kate Allan

This year Fairtrade Fortnight has been moved to the autumn (Monday 22nd September- Sunday 5th October) but, since it is 20 years since Brampton gained status as a Fairtrade Town, we are celebrating now and in the autumn!

There will be Fairtrade refreshments, a Fairtrade raffle and we plan to sell items for Carlisle World Shop. Come along to Brampton Moot Hall from 9.30am to 1.00pm on Saturday 29th March (it is also Farmers' Market Day).

CHURCH SERVICES

Gilsland Methodist

Services start at 10.30 unless stated

March 2nd Songs of Praise

March 16th Morning Service led by
Deacon Mark Attwood

St. Mary Magdalene

Services start at 9.30 unless stated

March 9th Holy Communion

March 23rd Morning Worship

BIN DAYS

Northumberland County Council

General waste: 13th & 27th

Recycling: 6th & 20th

www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste

Haltwhistle household recycling

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

Cumberland Council

Refuse and garden: 3rd & 17th

Recycling: 10th & 24th

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

Brampton household recycling

10am to 6pm, every day except
Tuesday

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays

- Community Coffee Morning | Village Hall | 10.30am - 12.30pm
- Youth club | Village Hall | 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Tuesdays

- Yoga | Haltwhistle Leisure Centre | 10.30am - 11.30am
- 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

Thursdays

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

Fridays

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

Saturdays

- Hatha Flow Yoga | Green Croft Arts | 9am - 10am

DIARY DATES

3rd, afternoon | Gilsland Village Hall | WI

9th, 10am to 1pm | Greenhead Village Hall | Hadrian's Wall Farmers' Market

11th, evening | Gilsland Village Hall | Dominoes

15th, evening | Gilsland Village Hall | Felt Nowt comedy

15th, 7pm | Wark Town Hall | Ian K Brown music

22nd, 10am to 11.30am | Gilsland Village Hall | Saturday Somatics

29th, 10am to 11.30am | Gilsland Village Hall | Saturday Somatics

BULLETIN BOARD

Gilsland Dominoes Drive

Gilsland Dominoes is back starting on Tuesday 11th March. We start at 7.pm sharp. £3 per session which includes a supper half way through. We also have a Raffle at the end. Everyone is welcome whatever your level of playing. The group is really friendly and supportive so come along and enjoy the evening.

Gilsland WI March meeting

Our March meeting will be on Monday 3rd March at 2.pm.

The speaker this month will be Graham Brooks from Warwick Bridge Corn Mill on how they make bread and hopefully bring some flour for people to purchase. The cost for guests will be £3 which will include refreshments. If anyone is planning to attend could you please phone 01697747036 to let me know for catering purposes.

Gilsland Community Coffee Morning

The community coffee morning group are still looking for another person or persons to join us and help with running our group. If you want to talk to me please get in touch.

Hadrian's Wall Farmers Market

On Sunday 9th March from 10am to 2pm at Greenhead Village Hall. Lovely fresh local products. Buy direct and meet the makers. Food and drink, plants and crafts. Homemade refreshments.

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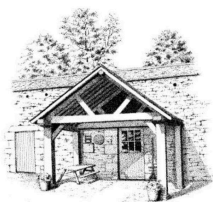
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Mike Mitchelson

Cumbria County Councillor

Mike Mitchelson, 0169772871

Northumberland County Councillor

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

Thirlwall Parish Council

Chair: Sue Seymour 07935259416, sue@mosspeteral.com

Vice Chair: Judith Armstrong

Clerk: clerk@thirlwallparishcouncil.org

Councillors: Emma Guerrero, David Keen, Owen Wilkins

Waterhead Parish Council

Chair: David Rackstraw

Vice Chair: Jovan Nicholson

Clerk: Sue Hatt:

waterheadpc@gmail.com

Councillors: John Woodmass-Calvert

Upper Denton Parish Council

Chair: Dan Newrick

Vice Chair: Tim Gordon

Clerk: Sue Hatt:

upperdentonpc@gmail.com

Councillors: Mike Harris

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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:

gilslandhallcommittee@gmail.com

Village Hall: 01697 543229

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. 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, Owen Wilkins and Liam McNulty.

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