

Gilsland Village Magazine

RIVER SAMPLING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Jenny Prosser

It is two years since Julia Aglionby, Jenny Prosser and Kit Hollings undertook their 85 mile swim from the source of the River Eden to the sea and formed View from the River. From streams grow rivers, from rivers grow seas, and they now find themselves part of the swelling nationwide movement concerned with the health of our endangered UK waterways.

The group now has a dedicated band of volunteers who have been sampling the water quality of the Eden and its tributaries for over 12 months at over ten different locations. Jenny Prosser says "It has been a great experience joining with the global citizen science movement and charity Earthwatch Europe to monitor the health of the River Eden catchment. Although many samples have indicated good overall river health, we have also observed higher than recommended levels of nitrate and phosphate, particularly downstream of sewage outflows."

If you would like to help monitor the water quality on the Irthing please contact the Kit Hollings on 07936 536704. Sampling is very simple and is done once per month, volunteer time allowing.

On Tuesday 3rd June at 1pm, Tullie House has invited the group to kick off their summer run of free Tuesday lunchtime talks. It will feature a short film and an illustrated talk on the logistics, the magic and the legacies of 'a microadventure on our doorstep'. The results from the monitoring project will also be presented, with a Q&A session afterwards.

Tickets are free and can be booked on Tullie House's website <https://tickets.tullie.org.uk/event-tickets/65287?catID=36174>

Results from the water monitoring can be viewed on Freshwater Watch <https://www.freshwaterwatch.org>



BARRIE'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH - COFFEE WHEATMEAL SLICE

For the sponge

- 250g Soft butter
- 250g Light soft brown sugar
- 250g Wholemeal flour mixed with 5 tsp baking powder
- 4 Whole eggs, beaten
- 4 tsp Coffee essence 'Camp Coffee' or very strong coffee of choice

For the mousseline filling

- 3 Whole eggs + 3 egg yolks
- 130g Caster sugar
- 50g Plain flour
- 340ml Milk
- 200g Soft butter
- 5 tsp Coffee essence (as above)

Method

1. Start by making a simple syrup, (75g of caster sugar and 75ml of boiling water) put aside to cool and then chill.
2. Line and grease with hard butter, an 11" square cake tin.
3. Cream the butter and brown sugar together until light and fluffy, gradually add the beaten eggs then fold in the flour and baking powder. Spoon into the prepared tin and spread evenly, leaving a slight dip in the centre. Bake at 170c for 45-50 mins. Check that a skewer comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin.
4. For the filling, make a pastry cream. Put the milk in a pan to bring to the boil, cream the eggs, yolks, caster sugar and flour together in a bowl, whilst still whisking, pour on the hot milk. When blended return the mix to the pan and place back on the stove. Over a medium heat, keep whisking until the mix becomes quite thick, switch to using a spoon or spatula and beat the mix to a smooth finish. Transfer to a bowl, lay some film or paper directly on the warm cream mix (to prevent a skin from forming) cool and then chill until quite cold. When the mix is cold, whisk the butter until light in colour and gradually add the cold pastry cream and the coffee essence, whisk until smooth.
5. To assemble, halve the sponge to give two rectangles, carefully slice through each rectangle, splitting into four even slices of sponge. Place the first layer of sponge crust side down on a serving dish or board. Flavour the chilled syrup with your preferred coffee liqueur (Tia Maria, Kahlua) or more coffee essence to your taste.
6. Using a pastry brush dab the sponge with the coffee liqueur syrup until moist, spread with a layer of the mousseline, add another layer of sponge and repeat moistening and layering with mousseline. Repeat for the third layer, place the fourth layer of sponge with the flat crust uppermost to finish the layering. Moisten the top layer with syrup and the coat the top and sides with the remaining mousseline. Chill for an hour or more in the fridge. Can be decorated to taste with preparations of nuts, chocolate coffee beans or such like.

Makes for a great dinner party dessert with cream or ice cream or for an indulgent addition to an afternoon tea.

ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH AGM

By Janet Gordon

The church committee recently held its annual meeting and there are many things to celebrate. Lots of work has been done by the few to keep the church going and thanks to Alison, Sheila, Portia and Owen for doing so much. Also, a big thank you to many others including Andy Keen and Dave Berry for help with upgrading to energy efficient light bulbs. There have been some lovely services such as the Christmas Carols and the Taizé choir from Carlisle Cathedral. Part of the grounds are being rewilded and there were moth and bat observations. Gilsland school have helped with these projects and have also displayed some of their lovely artwork throughout the year. If you do visit the church or graveyard please remember to sign the book as it helps identify visitor numbers.

The church has regular services every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 9.30am. Everyone is welcome. Please stay for a cup of tea and a social chat afterwards. The committee are looking for a secretary and new members are always welcome. We have 4 meetings per year and the next one is 17th June 2025. Please get in touch if you would like to ask any questions or offer help. janetmgordon@gmail.com / alison.marymag@gmail.com

WILDFLOWER WALK AT WILLOWFORD FARM

By Liam McNulty

Join a free walk around the restored hay meadows by the River Irthing at Willowford Farm in Gilsland. Liam McNulty will give an overview of the farm and how the hay meadows have been restored over the last 12 years as part of the farm's Higher Level Stewardship agreement. Ecological surveyor and Gilsland resident, Stuart Colgate, will then lead the walk and help identify the plants and other wildlife that we find en route.

The walk is on Thursday 12th June from 10.30am and will last for approximately 1½ hours.

This is a free event but places are limited. Please contact Liam to book a place on stay@willowford.co.uk or 07920841919.

Due to the access and terrain this is not suitable for people with limited mobility. It is also an adult-only event.

A CHANGE OF LIFE

By Owen Wilkins

Two years ago, my wife Portia and I packed up and moved from a suburb of Sheffield to Gilsland.

I had given a lot of thought to how much of a change this would be for us both but had no idea how we would deal with such change. Separately, the two of us grew up in entirely suburban environments with bustle, traffic, a diverse cosmopolitan population, convenient public transport and amenities in abundance, but within reach of places of natural beauty and post-industrial wildlife habitats. However, neither of us had experience of a rural life. We both had relatives who briefly worked in agriculture but, apart from occasional rural holiday breaks, this way of life was a mystery to us. The other aspect of growing up in the suburbs of large cities was the lack of expectation of meaningful contact with neighbours. Introducing oneself to 'the neighbours' had been an intimidating challenge for us, even being able to call upon my skills as a moderate extrovert, opportunities were missed due to the (wrong) perception that everyone keeps themselves to themselves and doesn't want to be 'bothered'. By the time I would notice that they had arrived home, our new neighbours would have sprinted from their car and ducked behind the dense privet hedge before slamming the front door behind them. This was disappointing in the scheme of things because I value community and would want to establish trust and care between those living next door to one another. At the same time it would be a relief because I understand that until our first meaningful interaction in which one finds a way to be of service to the other or we discover a mutual interest in something, there will likely be much small-talk and I find this extremely difficult. I think I take after my maternal grandfather who did not usually converse at all without a subject and even then, never at length.

This has not been an issue in Gilsland.

I already knew a couple living in the village and they have been tremendously helpful in introducing us to some of the 'ways', how and where to get things etc. Also, our conspicuous end of terrace position with wrap-around grounds leaves us extremely vulnerable to passers-by who are friendly or curious and prepared to chat. We have met loads of residents this way as we undertake to transform the garden from its previously neglected state into something that is hopefully pleasing to the eye and useful for supplying some of our fruit and vegetable needs.

A CHANGE OF LIFE (continued)

By Owen Wilkins

We are now firmly installed in both churches in the village in addition to my involvement with the Parish Council. These activities keep us abreast of the nuts and bolts of village life, as well as being platforms for maintaining connection to groups and individuals that enrich and develop life here. It's such an adventure being here and for that I am massively grateful.

I would advise anyone who doesn't particularly feel part of things to simply try something new and when invited to join in, consider saying 'yes' and seeing where it leads.

CHURCH SERVICES

Gilsland Methodist <i>Services start at 10.30 unless stated</i> June 1st Songs of Praise June 15th Songs of Praise June 29th Mission Community Service at Lanercost Priory	St. Mary Magdalene <i>Services start at 9.30 unless stated</i> June 8th Morning Worship for Pentecost June 22nd Holy Communion
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BIN DAYS

<u>Northumberland County Council</u> General waste: 5th & 19th Recycling: 12th & 26th www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste <u>Haltwhistle household recycling</u> Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday 8am - 6pm	<u>Cumberland Council</u> Refuse and garden: 9th & 23rd Recycling: 2nd, 16th & 30th www.carlisle.gov.uk/residents/bins-and-recycling <u>Brampton household recycling</u> 10am to 6pm, every day except Tuesday
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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, 1pm | Tullie House | Big Swim: Source to Sea talk

3rd, 7pm | Gilsland Village Hall | WI meeting

8th, 10am to 1pm | Greenhead Village Hall | Hadrian's Wall Farmers' Market

10th, 7pm | Gilsland Village Hall | Dominoes

12th, 10.30am | Willowford farm | Wildflower walk

18th, 2pm | Greenhead Village Hall | Accordion concert

30th, mid-morning | Gilsland Village Magazine | Rington's Van

BULLETIN BOARD

HADRIAN'S WALL FARMERS MARKET

On Sunday 8th June at Greenhead Village Hall from 10am to 2pm. Stock up on locally produced food and drink, buy lovely home baking, fill up the last plant spaces in the garden or get some great craft gifts. All while you try our delicious home-made refreshments. Stay local, buy the best.

GILSLAND DOMINOES DRIVE

Gilsland Dominoes Drive will be Tuesday 10th June in the Village Hall starting at 7pm sharp. £3 per session which includes supper halfway through. We have prizes and a raffle. Everyone is welcome whatever your level of playing. The group is really friendly and supportive so why not come along and have an enjoyable evening.

GILSLAND WI JUNE MEETING

Our June meeting will be Tuesday 3rd June 7pm in the Village Hall. This month will be a History of Bells from Ron East. The cost for guests is £3 which will include refreshments. If anyone is planning to attend could you please phone Doreen Gutteridge on 016977 47036 to let me know for catering purposes.

GILSLAND COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING APPEAL

Once again I am appealing for a volunteer or volunteers to help me with running the community coffee morning on Mondays 10.30 to 12.00, in the Village Hall. If anyone is interested even if it is once or twice a month please contact me. Doreen Gutteridge on 016977 47036. Or come along and see what goes on. The next Monday will be 2nd June.

ACCORDIAN CONCERT

Robert Whitehead will play an accordion concert on 18th June 2pm at Greenhead Village Hall. Admission £6

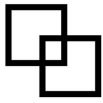
VILLAGE HALL VE DAY DECORATIONS MISSING

The Village Hall Committee are saddened that some of the decorations which adorned the hall to celebrate VE day last month have been removed from inside the hall. Can anybody with any information to their whereabouts please contact the village hall and /or return them.

THE MACMILLAN PLANT SALE

This year raised an amazing £1450. 37p. Thank you to everyone who helped to reach that record breaking total.

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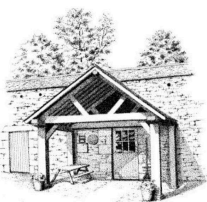
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Mike Mitchelson

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

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:

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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