

Gilsland Village Magazine

MPs VISIT GILSLAND

On 17th October, councillors from each of the 3 Parish Councils, both the Northumberland and Cumberland County Councillors, both Members of Parliament, and various business and community representatives met to discuss some “hard to sort, long-term” issues.

First up was the dearth of public transport through the village. The Tyne Valley Rail Users Group gave an update on the campaign to re-open Gilsland railway station. One pressing action is to engage with the North East Combined Authority's Local Transport Plan consultation, which is due to open in the new year. Anyone can respond and the more responses the better. All arguments are helpful, from improving residents' transport options, reducing car use, making the village a more desirable place to live and work, stimulating the local economy, to making the rich cultural heritage of the region more accessible.

More positively, Cumberland Council has secured funding to provide a bus service from Carlisle to Gilsland that will connect with the AD122 and run around 3 times a day. It's hoped the service will start by next Spring.

Next up was the lack of a dedicated cycle path between Gilsland and Longbyre, forcing cyclists to share the fast stretch of road with motorists. Parish and County councillors will explore funding and permissions for the route and work with the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust to move this project up their agenda.

Next on our agenda was the poor communications infrastructure. Broadband speeds should soon be faster thanks to Project Gigabit installing fibre optic connections to all households on the Brampton exchange, which also includes the Northumberland side of the village, Longbyre and Greenhead (hence all the new telegraph poles). A representative from Northumberland County Council suggested setting up a local task group to explore with the council and other stakeholders the problematic Digital Voice rollout and poor-to-no mobile phone reception. Anyone interested in joining this group should contact Sue Seymour on sue@mosspectral.com.

Next, it was noted that neither the official National Trail footpath that goes behind the school and past Poltross Burn Milecastle nor the diversion through the village are being properly maintained. There are pros and cons to each route but an ideal solution would be to have them both kept

in good condition but with much improved signage, which the parish councils, working with their respective County Officers, will work towards.

Finally, there was an update on Gilsland Spa Hotel, as reported here in September. In summary, the property is currently being renovated with the intention to reopen it as a hotel in due course, which is very welcome news.

UPDATE FROM GILSLAND SCHOOL

By Nic Atkinson, Headteacher

What a busy half term we've had! The children, as always, have been a delight to teach and are always surprising us with their enthusiasm and love of learning.

It's been wonderful to invite the children from Walton and Lees Hill to join us on Mondays for our PE lessons with Andy. They have also enjoyed sharing our fabulous outside area and taking part in our Muddy Monday activities. We have been delighted to invite our first 'Little Robins' each Wednesday from 10 – 11am. This is a great opportunity for babies, toddlers and their families to meet, enjoy a cuppa and socialise whilst making use of our school's excellent facilities. Everyone is welcome. Thank you to everyone who came to our Harvest Festival; the children shared their learning about harvest and entertained everyone with their beautiful singing. We were blown away by the number of donations for Brampton Foodbank, which Mrs Mitchell kindly dropped off. Thank you. The children are currently helping Miss Jackson train for her run from Carlisle to Brampton in November. They have each challenged themselves to run 10 miles and are hoping to raise money to support school funds. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. If you'd like to make a donation, please pop into school.

If you would like to visit the school, please pop in and say hello - we'd love to meet you!

KNITTING GROUP CELEBRATES TURNING 10

By Brenda Smith

Last month was the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Knitting Group. What started with a large pile of unwanted wool and a small idea has resulted in a group that has been able to send our goods to those in need both locally and abroad, including Malawi, Kenya, Lebanon and Ukraine. Many thanks to all our contributors over the years and to Andi at House of Meg, our collection and drop-off point and where we meet most Tuesdays from 12-3pm.

GREENHEAD FARMERS' MARKET IS 20!

By Wendy Bond

The November Farmers' Market at Greenhead Village Hall, on Sunday 9th November, will be a celebratory one for it will be 20 years old!

Through sunshine, showers, snow and even gales, local producers have brought their fine produce into the village on the second Sunday of every month. Visitors, too, have enjoyed the range of foods and crafts, as well as the excellent conversation. And because of its reputation as the "friendly market" it has been the place where those just beginning to try selling have been able to take their first steps and learn the ropes.

Supported in the early days by the National Park and grants from the EU LEADER programme, the market in its turn has supported the Village Hall through its fees, and it's been an invaluable meeting place for local residents to meet and chat over one of Howard's delicious bakes and a cup of tea or coffee. Bill from Low Row has run the market for the last ten years, now ably assisted by his rescue dog.

At just before 11am, as it does every November, the market will pause so that customers and stall holders alike can cross the road to join in the Remembrance Service held across the road at the village War Memorial. The members of the Greenhead W.I., soon to be celebrating 100 years, have been working hard to make sure the poppies are just right. After the service in the church with its detailed memorial for the many local men lost in the First World War, everyone will make a bee line for Howard's cakes.

GILSLAND LANTERN PARADE 2025

By Amanda Drago

The Gilsland Lantern Parade returns this winter — and everyone's invited to help make it shine! Join us for a series of FREE creative, family-friendly workshops leading up to our magical Lantern Parade on Saturday 6th December 2025.

Our centrepiece lanterns will draw inspiration from Hadrian's Wall, celebrating its stories and the heritage of the landscape around us.

We'll gather at Gilsland CofE Primary School and parade through the village to House of Meg tearooms where you can enjoy their annual Christmas Market and carols from Hadrian Singers. Come light up the dark and celebrate our community together!

FUNGI SEASON IS HERE AT LAST!

By Stuart Colgate

Autumn fungi finally emerged a little later than usual this year.

The parts of the fungi that are visible are the fruitbodies whose purpose are to produce and disperse spores. When shed onto suitable soil or dead wood the spores develop into a mass of fibres called a mycelium. This grows larger and produces new fruitbodies the following year. They come in a wide range of shapes, colours, sizes and methods of producing their spores. Spores are produced on gills or pores beneath the cap in toadstools, whereas in others they develop in pits on the hard surface and are forcibly ejected when mature.

Fungi get nutrients in a range of ways: Some are 'rotters', whereby they break down dead wood, leaves, dead creatures, dung, etc and extract useful nutrients, returning many of these to the soil where they are re-used by plants etc. They are a major recycler in the natural ecosystem. Other fungi are 'mycorrhizal', where the fungal mycelia grow in and around the roots of trees and other plants; they make use of some of the nutrients that trees produce by photosynthesis; in return the fungi supply essential nutrients and water to the tree roots. Some fungi feed on living organisms (plants, animals, other fungi) for their nutrients. This is a parasitic relationship which sometimes kills the host, but often they have little ill-effect.

Autumn provides an ideal time to visit woods or grasslands to look at fungi. In grasslands such as churchyards, long-established lawns, meadows etc you might come across waxcap fungi many of which are brightly coloured. In woodlands, take a look at the ground beneath tree canopies where you are likely to come across mycorrhizal fungi such as brittlegills, boletes and milkcaps, some of which are also brightly coloured. Also take a look at fallen branches or dead stumps to search for bracket, resupinate and jelly fungi. Please note that some fungi are extremely poisonous. These toxic fungi can look very similar to others, so do NOT eat or taste any fungi you find and wash hands thoroughly afterwards.

The range of spore colour includes white, pink, yellow, orange, browns, purple and black. To see this, cut the stalk just below the cap of a toadstool and lay the cap (gill side down) on the overlap of a piece of white and black paper (to allow both dark or light colours to be seen). Cover over with a bowl or tub and leave overnight. In the morning you should have a spore print when you carefully lift the cap. This will show the positions of the gills or pores, as well as the colour of the spores. Have fun!

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays

- Community Coffee Morning | Village Hall | 10.30am - 12.30pm
- Youth club lantern making | 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

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

15th, 7:30–9:30pm | Gilsland Village Hall | 'WILD' A Highlight's Rural Touring Show - - see www.greencroftonthewall.com to book

20th, 10.30am - 12.30pm | Threshing Barn | Christmas Fused Glass Workshop with Glass by Donemark

22nd & 23rd, 10am - 4pm | The Threshing barn | Community lantern making weekend - see www.greencroftonthewall.com to book

28th, 7.00 - 9.00pm | Threshing Barn | Willow Wreath Making

29th, 11.00am - 1.00pm | Threshing Barn | Willow Wreath Making

30th, 10.00am - 3.00pm | Threshing Barn | Christmas Mini Retreat including Yoga, Wreath Making and Sound Bath

6th Dec, 3.30pm | Gilsland School | Lantern parade

BULLETIN BOARD

Gilsland Dominoes Drive will be Tuesday 11th November in the Village Hall starting at 7pm sharp. Cost £3 per session which includes supper at half time. We have prizes (1st prize £10) 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. This will be the last one for this year and we look forward to seeing you all again on March 10th 2026.

Creative Writing Project is looking for contributors. "Voices from the Wall: Community Stories in Sound" gives you the chance to work with a creative writer to explore stories from the past and help create short scripts for an immersive geolocated sound walk. No experience needed—just curiosity and imagination! Visit www.greencroftonthewall.com or email Amanda on info@greencroftonthewall.com

Thursday Coffee Break and Gilsland Chapel would like to thank our Coffee Break customers. Your generosity has again allowed us to send donations to :- Macmillan Cancer Care, the Salvation Army, GNAAS, SSAFA, and Zig Zag Days. From the collection taken at our enjoyable Harvest Service at the Chapel, £100 has been sent to Macmillan Cancer Care and £100 to Action for Children. Thank you all for your help and as usual our November Coffee Break takings will go to BBC Children in Need. Evelynne, Maureen B, Elizabeth.

The Poetry Drop-in on Wednesday 5th November is tuning in to the splendid 200th anniversary of the wonderful Railways - bring along your favourites to share (there are lots to choose from) from 1.30 to 3pm in Greenhead village hall. If you need a lift contact Annette on 7968229767.

The Hadrian Singers enjoyed a get together with Lindsay's other choirs from the city and coast at the Sill youth hostel last month. Keep an eye out on the posters for November's dates - Lindsay is much in demand at this time of year for gigs as a soloist but we hope to have a good few sessions to get ready for our Christmas performances - if you would like us to bring a seasonal note to your event, contact Morag on mac.kent247360@gmail.com

The Community Coffee morning will continue as usual on Mondays from 10.30 to 12.30 until 15th December and will resume on the 5th January 2026.

BULLETIN BOARD

The 38th Annual Art & Craft Fair in Haltwhistle takes place in the Masonic Hall on Banks Terrace on Saturday 2nd November, between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. There will be candles, crochet products, paintings, pencil drawings and prints, decoupage, wax melts, bath bombs, soap, many styles of cards for all occasions, memory books, embroidered bags for all purposes, dreamcatchers, painted glass, paperweights, ceramics, Dog coats, bibs, present bags, children's cushions festive products and many other gifts and accessories. The fair offers something for everyone.

In Memoriam - with the Carlisle Taize Choir. A time to remember loved ones at St Mary Magdalene on Sunday 2nd November, 6.30pm. This quiet service provides a time when anyone who has lost a loved one may remember, light a candle, listen to glorious music and hear words of comfort.

CHURCH SERVICES

Gilsland Methodist

Services start at 10.30 unless stated

Nov 2nd - Songs of Praise

Nov 16th - Songs of Praise

St. Mary Magdalene

Nov 2nd at 6.30pm - In Memoriam with the Carlisle Taize Choir and Rev Ben Phillips

Nov 9th 10.50am Remembrance Sunday (at St Cuthbert Nether Denton)

Nov 23rd 9.30am Holy Communion with Rev Ben Phillips

Nov 30th 10.30am (at St Mary, Walton)
Mission Community Holy Communion

BIN DAYS

Northumberland County Council

General waste: 6th & 20th
Recycling: 13th & 27th

www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste

Haltwhistle household recycling

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

Cumberland Council

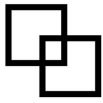
Refuse and garden: 10th & 24th
Recycling: 3rd & 17th

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

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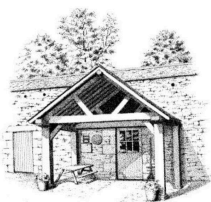
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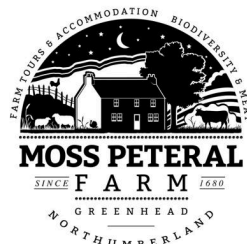
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WHO'S WHO

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 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 Ben Phillips, 07936 099123 or ben@lanercost.net

Gilsland School: 47302

Greenhead School: 47347

Gilsland Show secretary: Vicky Baty, 01228 675368

Methodist Church: Melvyn Whatmough, 47524

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.

Advertising

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