
MARCH '26

Gilsland Village Magazine

VOICES FROM THE WALL – COMMUNITY STORIES IN SOUND

By Amanda Drago, Greencroft Arts

A new immersive sound walk that invites local people and visitors to experience Hadrian's Wall in a completely new way — through story, voice, and sound — is launching this month .

Using the free Echoes app, listeners can explore sites around Gilsland while hearing original audio works that blend narrative, poetry, sound design, and field recordings. Each piece is geolocated, meaning the stories unfold in the very places that inspired them — creating a deeply atmospheric and personal experience of landscape and history.

The voices you hear span time and perspective: Roman soldiers and families, medieval villagers, border reivers, early walkers of the Wall, and imagined local lives rooted in the land. Together, they create a powerful tapestry of shared human experience that connects past and present.

The project was created through a community-led process between November 2025 and March 2026. Local people took part in site visits, creative writing workshops, and recording sessions, working alongside professional artists to develop stories inspired by the Wall and its surrounding landscape. Scripts were recorded with a community cast and shaped into an immersive audio experience using original environmental sound recordings captured on site.

From Saturday 7th March, the sound walk will be freely available to the public via the Echoes app, inviting everyone to explore Hadrian's Wall through community voices, stories, and sound.

Voices From The Wall is supported by English Heritage's Community Connections grants, with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and produced by Green Croft Arts.

Further information on how to download the Echoes app and a location map can be found on Green Croft Art's website, www.greencroftonthewall.com

A SIMPLIFIED SUMMARY OF THE BUS TIMETABLES

Alison Higgs has kindly summarised the buses serving Gilsland in the table below. If we want to keep (or even expand) this provision, we need to use it as much as we can!

Gilsland	9.59	Hourly until	12.59	Break	14.59	Hourly until	17.59
Brampton	10.18	Hourly until	13.18	Break	15.18	Hourly until	18.18
Carlisle	10.41	Hourly until	13.41	Break	15.41	Hourly until	18.41
Carlisle	8.42	Hourly until	13.42	Break	15.42	16.42	
Brampton	9.05	Hourly until	14.05	Break	16.05	17.05	
Gilsland	9.26	Hourly until	14.26	Break	16.26	17.26	
Gilsland	9.26	Hourly until	14.26	Break	16.26	17.26	
Greenhead	9.31	Hourly until	14.31	Break	16.31	17.31	
Walltown	9.40	Hourly until	14.14	Break	16.40	17.40	
Walltown	9.45	Hourly until	12.45	Break	14.45	Hourly until	17.45
Greenhead	9.54	Hourly until	12.54	Break	14.54	Hourly until	17.54
Gilsland	9.59	Hourly until	12.59	Break	14.59	Hourly until	17.59

As reported last year, we are (still) waiting for the railway consultation to open and will provide details as soon as we have them.

THE STANEGATE AND HADRIAN'S WALL IN SPRINGTIME

By Catherine Jarvis, Handy History Tours

It is amazing to think that we live beside a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Hadrian's Wall gained its World Heritage status in 1987, almost 40 years ago.

Living in this neck of the woods alongside Hadrian's Wall, it is easy to stroll along it, looking at all the different features of the Wall; the ditches, the forts, the milecastles, the observation towers, the roads. It is a bit like a detective story or doing a massive Roman jigsaw puzzle – looking at it all.

The walk from Birdoswald Fort to Gilsland is blessed with being the most complete Roman Wall Mile. It is wonderful to do this walk in all weathers but spring is a great season to get started. It is a shortish walk along the National Trail. Apart from Roman features you have the Irthing river, the trees, the birds, the animals and the landscape...

Back in the 1980s, I happened to start not with a walk (the walking came later) but with a book called 'The Agricola' by the Roman historian, Tacitus. Gnaeus Julius Agricola was Tacitus' father-in-law. Agricola (for short) was the Governor of Britain for an amazing length of time and was also a darned effective Roman General. Tacitus narrates how Agricola conquered Wales, Northern Britain and his victorious campaign in Caledonia (Scotland) during AD77 – AD84 (amongst other things).

Agricola (meaning 'Farmer') and his Roman troops were believed to have built the Stanegate, 'the Stone Road'. It is speculated to have started around the Newcastle/Whickham area... it then went through Corbridge Roman Fort, past the fortlet at Newbrough, past the fort at Vindolanda, past the fortlet at Haltwhistle Burn, past the fort at Magna/Carvoran, past the fortlet at Throp, past the fort at Nether Denton, past the fort at Brampton Old Church through to Carlisle Fort (Luguvalium). The Stanegate, therefore, became the original supply road for Agricola's campaigns in Caledonia against the various tribes up there. The Stanegate turned into the early 'Edge of Empire' frontier when the Roman troops were pulled out of Caledonia in the late 80s AD.

The Stanegate, constructed 40 years earlier, foreshadowed the building of Hadrian's Wall and everything that went with it, coast to coast, around AD122.

The rest, as they say, is history.

VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCIL CLERK

Thirlwall, Upper Denton and Waterhead parishes are looking for a new clerk and would really like to recruit a local person to take on both the Cumbrian and Northumberland parishes. Our current clerk, Sue Hatt, wishes to retire from these roles by September and has kindly volunteered to help her successor learn the ropes.

These are very part-time positions. For Thirlwall, with six meetings per year, we expect 112 hours work per annum and pay on scale 7 of the Local Government Services pay agreement, currently £13.69/hr. Waterhead and Upper Denton together have four meetings in the year and expect something around 75hrs work per year. The time requirement is not evenly spread, most of the work required is clustered around the meetings, but the clerk is expected to deal with correspondence and raise issues with the P.C. Chair in a timely fashion.

If you are interested and would like to know more about the roles please contact either Sue Hatt (clerk@thirlwallparishcouncil.org.uk), Sue Seymour, chair Thirlwall P.C (sue@mospeteral.com) or Dan Newrick, chair Upper Denton P.C. (thenewricks@hotmail.co.uk).

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS AT ST MARY MAGDALENE

St Mary Magdalene church is one of four in the local Benefice, sharing a vicar but otherwise overseen, operated and maintained by a small group of unpaid volunteers. Everything is paid for by finances given by the congregation as there is no external funding from the Church of England.

So that this local church and its graveyard, which we know is very much valued by many in our village, can keep going and fulfill various practical requirements, we are now looking for volunteers to step up and take on a few small roles that have been covered by fewer and fewer individuals over the years.

Firstly, a secretary for the Parochial Church Council to manage a small amount of administration and communication of meeting dates, agendas etc. and also (which could be a separate person) to record minutes at our quarterly meetings including an annual whole church meeting.

Secondly, as an eco-church there are various standards we need to meet as well as seeking to improve the church grounds as a habitat for wildlife and allowing nature to flourish.

If you can help us with any of this or for more information please email alison.marymag@gmail.com or phone 016977 47409.

AN UPDATE FROM GILSLAND CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Nicola Atkinson, Headteacher

Year 5 were great ambassadors for our school when they were invited to William Howard School to watch High School Musical. They were dazzled by some excellent performances, both on the stage and from the orchestra who accompanied throughout. It was lovely to hear the children's excitement on their return to school as they discussed which roles they would like to have when they get their chance in a few years' time – including dancing, acting and lighting.

Before half term, the whole school got to enjoy an energetic session on the trampolines with Bewcastle School, again at William Howard. They all impressed us demonstrating a range of different jumps including: straight, straddle, tuck, half turn and star jumps. It was lovely to see them encouraging each other and sharing advice.

We all enjoyed a trip to St Mary Magdalene's Church where Rev. Ben let us have a good look around and ask a **lot** of questions. We learnt all about communion and then several children asked if they could share a prayer of their own. Thank you to Ben and Alison for taking the time to show us around and answer our many questions.

One of our parents, Hannah, is currently walking 150 miles in February to help raise funds to replace our shed, which she remembers from when she went to school 28 years ago! Thank you to everyone who has donated so far, we have been delighted by your generosity. For anyone who would like to make a donation, there is a link on our Gilsland C E Primary School Facebook Page.



BULLETIN BOARD

Judy's annual plant sale is on Saturday April 25th from 10.30. - 12.30 (ish) at 20 Irthing Park, Gilsland. As usual, we are supporting MACMILLAN CANCER CARE, and also DAFT AS A BRUSH, who provide free transport to and from hospitals for patients undergoing cancer treatment.

Hadrian's Wall Farmers Market is on Sunday 8th March from 10am to 2pm at Greenhead Village Hall. Spring is here, so pick up some plants for the garden while you shop for delicious baking and other food, drink and craft items all direct from the producer. Stay local, buy the best.

The Poetry Group will meet next on Wednesday 4th March to share poems they've found / written that will make us chuckle, giggle or laugh out loud. Greenhead Village Hall from 1.30 to 3pm. Free and all welcome.

The Haltwhistle History & Heritage Group was entertained and informed by Steve and the etiquette (and risks of poison) at the Victorian tea table last month. In March, we'll be meeting in the evening for once at the Centre of Britain Hotel for a talk by David about the very long history of this astonishing building, central to the town from before the days when raiders from Liddesdale came riding to burn the town down! Assemble at 6.30pm in the new Cocktail Bar on the ground floor.

The New Hadrian Singers are preparing a new programme ranging from 15th century drinking songs to a terrific Tina Turner number, via work songs of American labourers and one titled Naked in the Garden. If you love to sing, can't read music, and like to laugh as you learn, join us in the Community Room at the Haltwhistle Hospital on Friday evenings at 7pm. Our leader does have gigs in distant cities on Fridays sometimes, so always check for time changes by contacting mac.kent360@gmail.com

Gilsland WI will next meet in the Village Hall on Thursday 5th March at 2pm. This month we have Andrew Pollock who is going to give us a cookery demonstration. The cost is £3, which will include refreshments. Please call 016977 47036 to book a place for catering purposes.

Gilsland Dominoes Drive restarts on Tuesday 10th March at 7pm sharp. Cost this year is £3.50 which includes a supper half way through. We also have a 50p raffle and prizes. Everyone is welcome whatever your level of playing. The group is really friendly, supportive and welcoming.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays

- Community Coffee Morning | Village Hall | 10.30am - 12.30pm

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Gilsland Methodist

Services start at 10.30 unless stated

Sunday 1st | Songs of Praise

Sunday 15th | Morning Worship

Sunday 29th | 10am | Palm Sunday at Lanercost Priory

St. Mary Magdalene

Services start at 9.30 unless stated

Sunday 8th | Morning Worship

Sunday 22nd | Holy Communion

Sunday 29th | 10am | Palm Sunday at Lanercost Priory

BIN DAYS

Northumberland County Council

General waste: 12th & 26th

Recycling: 5th & 19th

www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste

Haltwhistle household recycling

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

Cumberland Council

Refuse & garden: 2nd, 16th & 30th

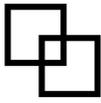
Recycling: 9th & 23rd

www.cumberland.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-street-cleaning/waste-collections

Brampton household recycling

10am to 6pm, every day except Tuesday

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Visit our website for more information about Guided Tours along Hadrian's Wall, Cumbria and Northumberland. We are also offering Roman Experiences including 'Write Like a Roman', 'Roman Food and Drink'. More Roman Experiences will be coming soon!

Contact: Catherine Jarvis

Tel: 07759 020885

catherine@handyhistory.co.uk

www.handyhistory.co.uk



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What's On March 2026

VOICES FROM THE WALL

from Saturday 7th March 2026
A Sound Walk featuring works by artists and the
community along Hadrian's Wall at Gilsland.
FREE



KIZLAR - CEYDA TANC DANCE

Gilsland Village Hall
Saturday 14th March 2026 7.30pm
Combines Turkish folk dance with athleticism.
£15.00 / £10.00



MOTHER'S DAY SOUND BATH

The Threshing Barn
Sunday 13th March 2026 3.00pm - 4.30pm
Relaxing passive meditative experience
£20.00



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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@mosspectral.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

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 Chris Cantrill, Owen Wilkins, Malcolm Redman and Liam McNulty.

Advertising

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