

MAY '26

# Gilsland Village Magazine

SYCAMORE GAP LEGACY TO TAKE ROOT AT GREEN CROFT

*By Amanda Drago, Green Croft Arts*



Green Croft Arts has been invited by Thirlwall Parish Council to become the home for a sapling grown from the iconic Sycamore Gap tree. The sapling was offered to the Council as part of the “Trees of Hope” initiative, which aims to create a living legacy for the much-loved tree.

As a suitable location could not be identified within the village itself, the Council approached Green Croft Arts due to our position on the Hadrian's Wall path and our accessibility to both the local community and visitors. We were honoured to accept and had been preparing to plant the sapling this week.

However, following final checks, they have found that some of the saplings' root systems are not yet strong enough to be planted this year. While this is disappointing, it comes from a commitment to ensuring the long-term health and survival of these important trees.

[cont'd on page 2]

The positive news is that an alternative plan is already in place. The National Trust will now graft new saplings to ensure they are robust, healthy, and a true descendant of the original tree. These will continue to be carefully nurtured at their Plant Conservation Centre and are expected to be ready for planting in early 2027.

Alongside the planting, we are hoping to create a small garden and seating area around the tree, with access directly from the Hadrian's Wall National Trail. This will offer a place for rest, reflection and connection for both the local community and those passing through. We will be fundraising over the coming months to support the creation of this space in readiness for Spring 2027, and we would love to shape it with the community. If you have ideas, would like to contribute, or are interested in volunteering to help bring the garden to life, please get in touch with Amanda at [info@greencroftonthewall.com](mailto:info@greencroftonthewall.com).

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## RECIPE OF THE MONTH - HONEY CRISPS

*By Barrie Garton*

### Ingredients

- 3oz butter, softened
- 1 oz caster sugar
- 2 dessert spoons of honey (preferably local)
- 2 dessert spoons of elderflower cordial
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 5oz self-raising flour

### Method

1. Beat the butter and sugar until pale and fluffy. Add the honey, cordial and lemon zest and continue beating until thoroughly mixed.
2. Lightly mix in the flour to form a pastry like dough. Using lightly floured fingers, roll pieces of dough into balls the size of a large marble.
3. Place on a large baking sheet, slightly flatten each ball and then bake at 180C (fan) for 10-12 minutes until light golden brown.

When cool, they can be stored in an airtight container.

# AN UPDATE FROM GILSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

*By Nicola Atkinson, Headteacher*

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Amy Lee to join our wonderful Gilsland school family, who is sharing our EYFS/KS1 class with Miss Jackson.

*"Hello, I'm Amy Lee and I'm pleased to have joined the Gilsland school family this month. I grew up in Hampshire and qualified as a teacher in 2005. I spent the first few years of my career working in schools in Warwickshire and the West Midlands. In 2013, my husband Jon and I moved with our two young children to live on a Christian charity ship called Logos Hope. We travelled east as far as Japan and south as far as Capetown. We had our third child during that time and then moved to Cumbria in 2016. I continued my teaching journey in a rural school near Wigton, teaching children from Nursery to Year 1. As well as leading the Early Years part of the school, I helped develop the school's Christian vision. I'm delighted to be starting this new chapter and seeing how I can support the wonderful children of Gilsland!"*



We had an action packed morning with Nat and Jack playing wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby. It felt very strange being able to get up and walk away at the end as our legs had got used to sitting down!



# INTRODUCING OUR COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

*By PC Nick Leigh*

I am PC Nick Leigh, your local community Police officer. I have already met and worked with some proactive members of the community who go out of their way to improve the area for all residents. Although Gilsland is on the boundary of Cumbria and Northumbria, our Police boundaries are not rigid. I work closely with my Northumbria counterpart PC Niell Harrison who also covers Gilsland.

Our roles are to tackle community problems. I'm aware of speeding and parking concerns in the area. More recently we have been aware of problems at the derelict Gilsland Spa hotel and wanted to update everyone on the steps I am taking to tackle the problem.

I initiated a multi-agency meeting which was held on Thursday the 23rd of April. I was joined by members of the Council's planning and enforcement team, the multi-agency HUB manager, fire and rescue service and the Police. It was good to hear options available to other agencies which will no doubt help resolve the problem.

Initially we have agreed to a site visit with all the relevant agencies. I will be capturing some drone footage to give everyone a good overview of the site. Following this we will have a better understanding of what crime prevention measures will be most suitable.

I am keen to get the views of local residents and have attached a QR code linked to a short survey. I want to know how many people are concerned about the site and how serious / frequent the problem is. These results will be shared at the next multi-agency meeting and will add weight to those who have already raised concerns with me directly. To get the survey up, go to the camera of your smartphone, hover it over the QR code and a link will pop up on the screen. Press the link to access the survey.

**Carlisle Rural North & East. Police  
And Communities Together.  
Community Priority Survey.**



I have, and will continue to be a regular presence in the area to deter criminality.

If you see something suspicious we want to know about it. You can call 101 or go on the police website and report something online. If a crime is in progress, call 999.

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## HISTORIC HOMES EXHIBITION AT WALLTOWN

*By Sue Seymour*

There is a second chance to see Zigzag's models of ten historic homes and an opportunity to meet the model makers in an exhibition at Walltown Country Park, which runs from 10am – 3.30pm every day from Saturday May 23rd to Sunday May 31st. And entry is free!

Visitors can also watch 'The Making of Poltross Burn Milecastle 48' and four other films and animations using local English Heritage sites as inspiration: Pike Hill Signal Tower, Leahill Turret, Hare Hill Wall remains and Banks East Turret. These four films were made by FilmAble, a company within Haltwhistle Film Project, run by and for people with learning disabilities.

Zigzag's Historic Homes project was funded by Haltwhistle's Community Shops fund. Zigzag's Milecastle 48 model and film and the FilmAble films were part of English Heritage's Community Connections Project.

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## BULLETIN BOARD

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**The sinister tale of Bellister Hall** - an evening of light entertainment at Greenhead Village Hall on 9th May from 6.45 to 7.15. Tickets are £10 each and include supper. Contact Elsie on 07796103000 for more information and to book.

**New gardener in Gilsland.** I'm Phil Ogg and I've been gardening around Northumberland for the last thirty years and have recently moved to Gilsland. Give me a ring on 07974649719 if you need a gardener!

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## BULLETIN BOARD

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**Poetry Drop-in** on Wednesday 6th May at Greenhead Village hall from 1.30 to 3pm. We will be 'reading round' the long but delicious poem by Robert Browning about the ancient German legend of the Pied Piper - you may remember it from childhood, but it's full of things for all ages to enjoy - sparkling language, outrageous rhymes and a moral lesson, too! And bring a favourite poem of your own, as well to share!

**The New Hadrian Singers** are looking forward to performing some of our latest repertoire during the May Day festivities in Haltwhistle - meet you there! Otherwise we meet every Friday in the Community room at the Hospital at 7pm (earlier if our leader, Lindsay has a gig in a distant city) and have a lot of fun! All ages welcome - you just need to enjoy singing.

**Haltwhistle History Group** will welcome Sophy Westlake from The Roman Army Museum to our meeting on Wednesday, 13th May at 10.30 in the Community Room at Haltwhistle Hospital to bring us all up to date on the exciting finds and alarming research happening at the dig at Magna fort - clearly visible on the horizon from the Military Road approaching Greenhead! As always, the talk is free though the Group welcomes donations.

**Hadrian's Wall Farmers Market** is on Sunday 10th May from 10am to 2pm at Greenhead Village Hall. Your monthly chance to purchase local products direct from the producer. A great time to get plants, donating to a good cause. Delicious baking, preserves and drinks, fresh meat, beautiful crafts. With tea and homemade refreshments too.

**Gilsland Dominoes Drive** is on 12th May at 7pm sharp. The cost 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.

**Gilsland WI** Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th May at 7pm (please note change of day and time). This month will be a demonstration from Keith Tattershall from Castle Chocolates. The cost for guests is just £3 which will include refreshments. Please let Doreen Gutteridge know for catering purposes on 016977 47036 if you plan to come.

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## WEEKLY EVENTS

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### 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

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## CHURCH SERVICES

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### Gilsland Methodist

*Services start at 10.30 unless stated*

3rd | Communion

17th | Songs of praise

### St. Mary Magdalene

*Services start at 9.30 unless stated*

10th | Morning worship

24th | Communion

31st | Extra communion service for the four churches of our area together

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## BIN DAYS

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### Northumberland County Council

General waste: 8th & 21st

Recycling: 14th & 29th

[www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste)

### Haltwhistle household recycling

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

### Cumberland Council

Refuse & garden: 11th & 25th

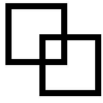
Recycling: 4th & 18th

[www.cumberland.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-street-cleaning/waste-collections](http://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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## THE SAMSON INN

*Your Community Pub*

Join us each month for great entertainment, great company, and a warm welcome.

— 3rd Sunday of the Month —

### *Supercar Sunday*

Experience an incredible display of cars — from classics to supercars.  
All vehicles welcome.



— 3rd Sunday of the Month —

### *Acoustic Night*

Relax and unwind with live acoustic music in the cosy surroundings of your local country pub.



— Last Saturday of the Month —

### *Quiz Night*

Test your knowledge, gather your team, and enjoy a fun evening of friendly competition.



— Bank Holiday May Event —

*Coming Soon*

## CLASSIFIEDS

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## Handy History Tours and Roman Experiences

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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## WHO'S WHO

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### **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

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

### **Advertising**

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