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JUNE '26

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# Gilsland Village Magazine

GILSLANDERS JOIN DEMONSTRATION IN CARLISLE

*By Lauren Harrison*



It was lovely to see such a fantastic turnout on Saturday 16th April, including several Gilslanders, for Carlisle Against Racism's demonstration in support of women and girls facing violence and sexual abuse.

A quarter of the crimes committed in Cumberland last year were acts of violence towards women and girls, the vast majority of these being committed by partners. Figures suggest that this situation has worsened in recent years with the government and the police now classifying it as a national emergency.

Cuts to vital support services for vulnerable women and children, combined with extreme misogyny online, are worsening an already dangerous situation, with boys and young men in our communities being poisoned by the extreme views of macho influencers online.

The demonstration was a hopeful call to government to fund support services and improved education around gender based violence and to introduce effective regulations on social media corporations allowing and promoting extreme abusive content online.

If you've been affected by any of these issues you can contact Victim Support Cumbria on 0300 3030157, Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services on 01434 608030 or the National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247.

# RECIPE OF THE MONTH - BRANDY SNAPS

*By Barrie Garton*

This is a simple basic mix which can be used to create cones, tubes, discs or baskets for serving as afternoon tea fancies or desserts. This mix will keep very well refrigerated - just allow it to come to a warm room temperature for use.

## Ingredients

- 2 Tablespoons Golden Syrup.
- 75gms Butter
- 75gms Soft Brown Sugar
- 75gms Plain Flour sifted with ½ tsp of powdered ginger.
- ½ tsp Brandy and/or Lemon Juice (optional)

## Method

1. Lightly oil a tablespoon and use it to measure the golden syrup into a small saucepan.
2. Add the butter and sugar and place the pan on a low heat. Stir until all is melted together and smooth. Remove from the heat, mix in the Brandy and/or lemon and allow to cool slightly.
3. Stir in the sifted flour and ginger and beat until smooth.
4. To use immediately set the oven to 180c place three or four small spoonfuls well-spaced on a non-stick mat or baking parchment. Bake for 5-10 minutes until dark golden brown and bubbling. Remove from the oven and allow to cool enough to be liftable from the tray but still pliable enough to shape.
5. Shape around a lightly oiled wooden spoon handle, a wooden dowel, a cream horn cone mould or to create cups or baskets, a teacup or small upturned glass.
6. Once cold and set, store in an airtight tin. Kept away from moisture they will last for several days.

To use the mix once it has cooled, simply take small amounts of mix, roll into a small ball, place on a lined tray and flatten slightly, bake as above and shape or mould as required.

If when moulding or shaping the discs start to harden, pop them back in the oven for a few moments to soften slightly.

# AN UPDATE FROM GILSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

*By Nicola Atkinson, Headteacher*



It's been another busy month at our school! We are continuing to work with Lees Hill and the children are thoroughly enjoying their muddy Monday sessions. Thank you to everyone who has provided seeds and plant pots and to Jenkinsons for providing us with compost for our school garden. We are really hoping to develop our outside area and make the most of our wonderful natural environment.

Owl class had fun at William Howard School taking part in a range of multi skills. They showed real determination and enjoyed meeting and making new friends with children from other schools.

Well done to all our Year 6s who showed great resilience and determination in their recent SATs. Their effort was commendable and it was lovely to see how well prepared they all were.

We are so proud of our school family and the fantastic learning opportunities we offer. We would be delighted to welcome new families to come and see what makes our school so special. Please feel free to visit us and discover how your child can thrive in our loving, caring environment offering wrap around care.

Tel: 016977 47302 – 7:45 – 5:30 Monday- Friday.

# WRITING TABLETS IN BRITANNIA & ON THE FRONTIER OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE – PART I

*By Catherine Jarvis, Handy History Tours*



*A Writing Tablet of Vindolanda, from [www.vindolanda.com](http://www.vindolanda.com)*

When the late Robin Birley discovered the now famous Writing Tablets of Vindolanda in 1973, these miniscule pieces of wood hit the news headlines in a big way.

At the time of their discovery, they were the oldest handwritten documents to date and voted Britain's 'top treasure' by experts at the British Museum in 2003. However, our oldest handwritten documents now belong to an excavation which took place in the City of London between 2010 and 2014 in a car park on the site of the Bloomberg Building. These documents "shine an intense beam of light on the earliest phases of the Roman occupation in the decades after the Claudian invasion of AD43." (Professor Alan Bowman)

From these wax and ink tablets, we hear the locals' requests for help and complaints about their financial difficulties. There is also the first financial document ever found in the City of London. Interestingly, these documents parallel some of those found at Vindolanda.

Both Roman wax and ink writing tablets have been found at Vindolanda. The initial 'treasure trove' of the first tablets in 1973 was discovered around

the site of a Roman military bonfire and date from between 90AD to 120AD (although some later dated ones have also been found). The bonfire was created by the Roman army in order to destroy out of date documents when the time came for the unit to move away from Vindolanda to another posting.

A wax writing tablet is like a little wooden book (c. 15cm x 6cm) with beeswax infilled on both sides (the two wooden leaves have a shallow recess to receive the wax). These were written on with a metal stylus (much like the ones we now use on touchscreen devices), which had a pointy end for writing in the wax and a blunt end to act as an eraser. The wax tablets, unlike the wooden ones, were re-usable.

The wooden ink tablets (no bigger than a postcard) were made from local birch, oak or alder. An ink pen (like an old-fashioned ink pen) was used to write on the wood in Latin. Roman ink was usually made from soot, vinegar and tree gum/sap.

What is absolutely amazing is that these writing tablets have survived (and continue to survive) over the centuries. More than 1700 tablets have been found so far at Vindolanda.

Part II will follow in next month's issue.

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## **BULLETIN BOARD**

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**Thank you** to everyone who supported this year's plant sale on April 25th. You helped us raise £2179, another record, which will be shared between Macmillan Cancer Care and "Daft as a Brush". Judy Lowes

**Hadrian's Wall Farmers Market** is on Sunday 14th June from 10am to 2pm at Greenhead Village Hall. Delicious home baking, preserves, fresh meat, drinks, crafts and plants. A great selection all direct from local producers. Don't miss it, and try our home made refreshments while you shop. Stay local, buy the best

**Poetry Drop-in** In tribute to that great centenarian, Sir David Attenborough, we shall be sharing poems this month about Creatures, Great and Small! As usual we'll be in Greenhead Village Hall, from 1.30pm to 3pm, on Wednesday, 3rd June, tea and coffee a-plenty. All welcome.

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## BULLETIN BOARD

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**New Hadrian Singers** The choir is growing from strength to strength, with new members joining and our skills developing every week. All looking forward to the new term starting on Friday, 5th June, at 7pm in the Community Room at the Hospital in Haltwhistle. The variety of what we sing is always astonishing! We have two gigs to look forward to already. New members are always welcome to this friendly group, with your first session free!

**The Haltwhistle History & Heritage Group** If you love trees and care about conserving the best of them, do come to this month's History Group meeting on Wednesday, 10th June, at 10.30am, in the Community Room at the Haltwhistle Hospital, when Nick Johnson will be telling us all about the Veteran Tree project in Northumbria. It's a national project aiming to find, map and record the details of our most ancient, special and splendid trees so that they can be made safe and enjoyed by generations to come. If you have a story about a special local tree, or know where to find the really old trees near here, you will be very welcome indeed at this meeting of all who care about trees and their history!

**Gilsland Dominoes Drive** is on 9th June 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** will next meet on Tuesday 2nd June at 7pm when Katie Bloem will be doing a floral demonstration. The cost for guests is just £3, which includes refreshments. For catering purposes, please let Doreen Gutteridge know if you plan to come on 016977 47036.

**Bridge Leek Club Presents... BONGO BINGO!** Get ready for a night of laughs, madness and brilliant prizes! On 20th June, time to be confirmed. Expect: Bingo balls flying, Leeks galore, Inflatable unicorns, Party prizes and surprises to be won throughout the night! Bring your friends, your lucky dabbers and your best bingo shouting voice for a fun-filled evening with the club. Keep an eye out for more details coming soon... it's going to be a cracking night!

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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*

7th | Songs of Praise  
21st | Songs of Praise

### **St. Mary Magdalene**

*Services start at 9.30 unless stated*

14th | Morning Worship,  
28th | Holy Communion

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## BIN DAYS

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### **Northumberland County Council**

General waste: 4th & 18th  
Recycling: 11th & 25th

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

### **Haltwhistle household recycling**

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

### **Cumberland Council**

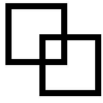
Refuse & garden: 8th & 22nd  
Recycling: 1st, 15th & 29th

[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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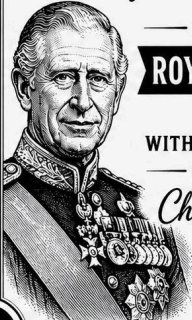
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[www.pdkennedyelectricals.co.uk](http://www.pdkennedyelectricals.co.uk)

## WHAT'S ON AT THE SAMSON INN THIS JUNE



— 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE —  
**KING CHARLES**  
*Birthday Celebration*



— AND A —  
**ROYAL QUIZ**

— WITH SPECIALS —  
FROM

*Chef Adam*

— 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE —

**FATHER'S  
DAY**



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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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