

Gilcrux Parish Newsletter



Gilcrux Village Hall & Educational Trust

Hello Everyone,

I hope this finds you all in good health and looking forward to the festive season with family and friends

Lunch club resumed in October and we had a great turnout as usual with some new guests also, it was lovely to see everyone gathering for a few hours of chat and a catch up, the next date is the 2nd December which will be our Christmas lunch, places must be booked for each lunch, with everyone welcome, the cost for the Christmas lunch will be £6.00 for 3 courses and tea or coffee. This village event is very well supported however we are always looking for volunteers to help, if this is something you would like to do please drop me a line or any committee member along with lunch club we would welcome anyone who feels they would like to join our committee, we're a small friendly bunch and any extra pairs of hands would be more than welcome

We have as in years gone by launched the "Gilcrux Village Lottery" which raises valuable funds for St Mary's, the tickets are £10.00 each with 50% going to the prize funds and the rest to St Mary's. The winners, 1st 2nd & 3rd will be drawn on 18th December at the mince pies and mulled wine afternoon, which is after the Carol service in Church, as they say, "You have to be in it to win it!" You can either drop your entry through my door in an envelope with your name and telephone number on or Catherine will also accept at the post office

The produce show this year was very well supported with the trophy going to Amanda Barnes 2nd place to Sarah Kearton and 3rd to Joan Kearton

Another very popular event held earlier this year was the Macmillan coffee morning and we were delighted to send £421.79 to this very worthy cause

At the time of writing, we are having the internal walls of the hall painted, we have stayed with the original colour, keeping our neutral theme to accommodate any style that may be needed for both corporate and private celebrations

That's all our news for now, thank you to everyone who has "Come out & joined in"

Helen Johnston – Chair

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St Mary's Church, Gilcrux



Hello everyone. Back in March, you said farewell to Canon Tim Herbert as your vicar, and now I have arrived as his replacement. I will tell you a little more about myself in a moment, but first to explain, I am something of a temporary stopgap. The plan is that I will be with you for around 2 years with a view to getting some new things going and putting our church on a more even footing, so that we are in a position to attract a good long-term appointment once my work here is finished.

I am also now joined by Revd Matt Richards, newly ordained as our curate. Matt and his wife, Saskia are living in Aspatia vicarage and their role is to focus on outreach, particularly among younger people. I hope you will get to know us all better in the coming months.

Now to introduce myself properly. I am Stewart Fyfe. Originally from Scotland, I have spent parts of my life in Brussels, Kent, Hertfordshire, London and Cambridge. My wife, Carolyn, is from Devon and we have been in Cumbria for the last 17 years, initially as curate at Great Orton, then for the last 12 years as vicar of 8 parishes (11 churches) in the Eden Valley just to the west of Appleby. I returned to the Solway in January, moving into the Vicarage at Abbeytown, to take up a role as Archdeacon of West Cumberland. I took over the care of Gilcrux, Hayton and Aspatia after Tim's retirement. Prior to ordination I worked as a financial investigator at the Serious Fraud Office and then as a litigation lawyer.

As I scan the next two years, the most obvious challenge at Gilcrux is St Mary's Church building. It is a very special place, built on an ancient holy site which has sat at the heart of the village's spiritual life since time immemorial. Sadly, it requires urgent and very substantial repair. The ceiling has recently been taken down (it was *taken* down, it didn't fall down!) to allow us to treat dry rot in the roof. We also need to renew the roof and carry out a number of other substantial works. For a community as small as Gilcrux, this is quite a challenge. Our reserves are small and we are entirely reliant on our local funds. The future is very much in our own hands, but if the building is to survive, we will need to put all hands to the pump. The main needs will be money and people. We would be grateful for any help with grant applications and fundraising. And financially, although there will a fund-raising and grant application effort, our main need is to build up more regular givers. It is ideal if those gifts are not restricted in purpose, but if you want to express a restriction that your giving is spent only on the building, which would still be a huge help at this critical stage of our existence. My details are below if you'd like to get in touch.

Our other need is to reach out more to the community. We are particularly aware that we have more to do to reach out to families and younger people, but there are other needs too. Our resources are not unlimited, but if you are aware of needs or things you would like the Church to do, please do let me know.

I look forward to getting to know you and I hold you all in my prayers.

Stewart

The Venerable Stewart Fyfe

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Services at St Mary's

Services are held every 2nd (Family Service) and 4th Sunday (Holy Communion in traditional language)

FUNDING AVAILABLE

The wind farm above our village provides ongoing annual funding to the Tallentire Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund. Over the years over £500,000 has been made available for community projects in the Gilcrux, Bridekirk, Blindcrake and Plumbland parishes and a healthy balance remains to be allocated.

Funding can be made available to projects that support the community, address health and wellbeing and improve the lives of people and the scheme is administered by the Cumbria Community Foundation (CCF). Grants are generally between £500 and £10,000.

If you are considering a local project which needs further finance and meets the CCF criteria you are encouraged to bid for funding through the Foundation.

For more details see posters on the parish notice boards or visit www.cumbriafoundation.org

There is also a vacancy for a Gilcrux Parish community representative on the panel that assesses bids submitted to the Fund from the four parishes. This meets on an ad hoc basis but at least twice each year. If you are interested in being our representative, please contact the Parish Clerk. Further information is also available through CCF.

The search for a Geological Disposal Facility site : update.

Since the last report on this issue in the parish newsletter, there has been, it seems, not much further activity on the project.

There are now 4 areas of the country being investigated where the geology is deemed suitable for a GDF. There are 2 in Copeland, 1 in Allerdale and 1 in Lincolnshire. Seismic investigations have been carried out in the Irish Sea off Copeland, it is anticipated a similar exercise will be done off the Solway coast in the next few months. Once the data has been analysed it is expected a review of the search areas will be made. How and if, this will affect the Ellen and Gilcrux search area, remains to be seen.

In the meantime, other countries are progressing with their own deep geological disposal facilities. Switzerland have just selected a suitable location, Sweden is going ahead with a site in granite, France has a plan to store in clay, whilst only Finland have so far built its own site in granite.

Friends of the Earth, the Green Party and the Cumbria Trust are all now monitoring the process. The Nuclear Waste Service has made a presentation to your Parish Council, details of this will need to be published by the Council.

For further information go to: www.allerdale.workinginpartnership.org.uk

Hi Folks

We're excited to tell you we now have our very own website please check it out www.themasonsarmsgilcrux.co.uk

On Saturday 3rd December here at the Masons Arms from 1-4pm there will be a Christmas Fair selling all things handmade by some very talented locals.

All money taken will be donated to Gilcrux Village Social Fund.

(Tea, Coffee and Cakes being served)

Masons Arms Xmas Opening

BAR: Open as normal: Xmas Day 12 midday till 4pm: Boxing Day 12 midday till late: 27th to 30th 4pm till late: NYE & NYD 12 midday till late. FOOD 22nd to 24th 6-8.15pm: Xmas Day Full: Boxing Day 6-8.15pm: 29th to 31st 6-8.15pm

UPDATE FROM THE GILCRUX/ UKRAINIAN SUPPORT GROUP

In March 2022, two Ukrainian families left their war-torn country and were invited to stay in Gilcrux. The support they received from villagers, especially the two host families, was heart-warming and commendable. Not only did individual people hold out the hand of friendship to our Ukrainian friends, but the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council, The Mason's Arms, The Barn Inn, Tallentire Hall and individual donors helped in many and varied different ways.

Talents emerged in the form of art therapy, educational advice & support, fundraising, cooking & baking and even nail painting. People rallied by helping with the school run, writing policies, befriending and attending meetings. Many small acts of kindness and humanity were quietly given without the need or desire for recognition.

Now that Luda and Aleysya and their families are no longer in Gilcrux, the Support Group has come to a natural end, but has agreed to re-form should the need arise. The remaining money in the fund raised from a raffle and Ceilidh was handed over to help with re-location costs back in Ukraine.

The response to the plight of two families in need has been both humbling and heart-warming. Well done Gilcruxians!

Gilcrux Social Fund AGM

The AGM of the Social Fund was held on Wednesday 5th October in the village hall and was open to all. At this meeting the chair, secretary and treasurer all explained that they were prepared to carry on until the end of 2022 and plan a Christmas day out but following this a new committee would be needed. John Heyworth agreed to take on the position of Chair and Elaine Kelly agreed to take on the role of Minutes Secretary. It was felt that an events administrator was also needed to plan and arrange bookings and liaise with attendees. As only 8 people were at the meeting there were no further volunteers, so if anyone is interested in helping with this or the role of treasurer (which was left vacant) please can they speak to John or send an email to the address below.

Day trip to Ulverston Dickensian Festival – Saturday 26th November

This trip will be free of charge to any residents of Gilcrux aged 60 or over. Other residents of the village or anyone with a sufficiently close association with the village are welcome to join us with a small contribution towards the costs – numbers permitting. If you are interested in joining us and have not already expressed an interest, please contact the secretary on the email below or complete a form that you can collect from the village post office or Mason's Arms.

Contact - GSF Secretary GilcruxSF@gmail.com