

The nostalgia of Christmas past connects with the present in Gilmanton

By ELIZABETH HOWARD

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Nestled quietly at the intersection of Routes 107 and 140, Gilmanton, or the two villages of Gilmanton Corners and Gilmanton Ironworks, is an elegant hamlet of historic homes and farms, incorporated in 1727 and eventually settled in 1761. Traveling along the back-country road leading into what is known as the four corners is like driving straight into a 19th century painting.

Gilmanton is one of those quiet New Hampentrepreneurs who are thriving through their crafts. There are no Christmas trees, silver

places, tucked away and immune, it appears, from the fickle trends of contemporary life. A place where one can find not only a refuge from our commercial world, but a community of creative, passionate embracing change and neon signs, pink plastic Christmas trees or a



The Four Corners Brick House in Gilmanton is full of antique treasures. (Alan MacRae for The Laconia Daily Sun)

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# Holiday SHOPPING GUIDE

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## from preceding page

paved parking lot in sight. Innovation, creativity and a spirit of friendship prevail.

Anthony Trollope, the British writer, describes an English Christmas dinner in a short story entitled, "Christmas at Thompson Hall" as: "a sirloin of beef a foot and a half broad, a turkey as big as an ostrich, a plum pudding bigger than the turkey and two or three dozen mince-pies."

One can imagine peering through a glass window in one of the handsome homes in Gilmanton and watching a family gathered around a table enjoying a holiday feast. While the menu Trollope describes might be a bit grand for our 21st century taste, it is a reminder that a holiday dinner and gifts for family and friends take thoughtful planning.

At the Four Corners Brick House one can find the mahogany table, the crystal wine glasses and the silver service to recreate an English holiday dinner. With a little imagination the table might have contemporary chairs, sit squarely on a bold colorful rug and be lit by sleek Italian lighting. The past and the present harmoniously work together. In our contemporary homes, carefully curated, it is the art and the antiques that provide the actual point of reference. Often these elements are discovered in places like the Four Corners Brick House.

For holiday dinners and entertaining, Gilmanton Own's, a food co-operative that was founded in the fall of 2017, is a place where one can source locally produced meat, fruits, vegetables, honey, maple syrup and artisanal cheeses. The organizers of Gilmanton's Own, Inc., a nonprofit co-operative, are

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## **Four Corners Brick House**

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Badger Brook Farms features hand-dyed and Australian wools among other things. (Courtesy photo)

local farmers and artisans who have created a place for artisans and farmers to exhibit, market and sell their work. One can also find books, paintings, jewelry and other products that are crafted locally at Gilmanton's Own in the old Firehouse.

And what is a holiday feast without wine, and why not serve wine produced from grapes grown in Gilmanton? The Gilmanton Winery offers local and imported wine in their retail shop. The Winery also occasionally serves farm-to-table dinners and brunch on Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. On the weekend before

# open house December 8th and 9th

9-4 Saturday and Sunday!

Locally made crafts from over 30+ vendors!
 Handmade crafts including kid toys, mittens, floral, maple, lighting, jewelry and much more!
 Refreshments

\* Cider Doughnuts from Meadow Ledge Farm \* Decorate your own wreath -OR- pre-decorated wreaths

\* Raffles \* Face painting \* More info on facebook!





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# Holiday SHOPPING GUIDE



Some items on display at Gilmanton's Own. (Courtesy photo)



Gilmanton's Own carries seasonal foods. Courtesy photo)



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## **GILMANTON** from page 12

Christmas, Dec. 22 and 23, they are planning sleigh rides, providing there is enough snow. You might want to make your reservation now.

This season, hand-knit sweaters are found on the runways and featured in fashion magazines. Badger Brook Farm on Province Road is a studio and wonderland of sorts where one can find hand-dyed and Australian Wools, patterns, walls of samples and in their words "lots of friendship and inspiration."

You will want to spend the day in Gilmanton. Exploring, perhaps visiting the local library, or shopping. When it's time for lunch or an afternoon

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# Holiday SHOPPING GUIDE



The Gilmanton Cafe, formerly the Gilmanton Corner Store, in Gilmanton. (Alan MacRae for The Laconia Daily Sun)

## **GILMANTON**

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tea, stop by the Gilmanton Café, recently purchased by Bob and Becky Ronstadt. Their menu offers local fare, soup and sandwiches, wraps, and mac cheese as well as pizza. A friendly greeting will await you. The Café is just across from the Four Corners Brick House.

ton. I'm looking forward to a sleigh ride, shopping brunch.



Gilmanton's Own has real bread crumbs. (Courtesy photo)

and the joy of being in this sophisticated, calm. picturesque place.

## Badger **Brook Farm**

170 Province Road Gilmanton, 03237

Thursday -Open: Saturday 10:00 – 4:00 603.267.1200

## **Gilmanton Winery** 518 Province Road Open: Thursday-Sat-

urday 11-6; Sunday 8:30-1:30 p.m., serving brunch; 1:30-5 p.m., wine tasting/ purchase 603.527.8047

## Gilmanton's Own

394 Route 140 (at the Corners, just off 107), in the "Old Fire House." Open: Thursdays 2-6 p.m., Saturdays 10-4 p.m., Sundays 12-3 p.m. Email gilmantonsown@ gmail.com

### Gilmanton Café 518 Province Rd.

Open: Hours 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Closed Monday 603.527.8047

## **Four Corners Brick House**

525 Province Road, Route 107

Tuesday-Sat-Open: urday, 10 a.m.-5p.m., Sunday Noon-4 p.m. 603.267.6949



