

= Gilly Roach =

Gilbert " Gilly " Roach is a fictional character from the British Channel 4 soap opera Hollyoaks , played by Anthony Quinlan . The character debuted on @-@ screen during the episode airing on 4 October 2005 . Gilly was created in 2005 by executive producer David Hanson . Gilly has often been portrayed as a push @-@ over and has a double act partnership with fellow character Rhys Ashworth . His main character traits have been his " nice attitude " , with Quinlan branding Gilly in his first five years as a " push @-@ over " . He has been labelled a loser and unlucky in love after failed relationships with Jessica Harris , Beth Clement , Cheryl Brady and Jem Costello . In 2009 , executive producer Lucy Alan made changes to the character and reached a mutual agreement with Quinlan to shave off his hair , which has characterised Gilly during his early years .

In 2010 he was paired with Steph Cunningham , who was later killed on @-@ screen after Stenson quit her role . This resulted in a long @-@ running storyline for Gilly in which he was seen taking a " dark journey " unable to cope with grief . Another big storyline for the character occurs in 2011 when Jacqui McQueen accuses him of rape ; the storyline subsequently received media attention . A fictional jury consisting of viewers is to decide if he is guilty or innocent . Other storylines have involved the effects of binge drinking , which was portrayed during an online spin @-@ off drama . Gilly has sometimes proved unpopular with television critics , with one branding him a " dampy drizzle of a character " . Quinlan has also been nominated for minor awards for his portrayal . In 2011 , it was announced that Quinlan would be leaving the serial to pursue other projects and would leave at the end of the rape storyline .

= = Character development = =

= = Relationship with Beth Clement = =

BBC America described Gilly on their official website stating : " His most endearing quality is his honesty and despite his countless flaws , what you see is what you get . He 's hardly a ladykiller but what he lacks in appearance he makes up for with charisma . " E4 publicity describe Gilly as fun @-@ loving and always trying to woo females but hardly manages to impress them and has also been described as unlucky @-@ in @-@ love after his failed relationships . Initially he failed to impress females and didn 't have much in common with them . Gilly has been portrayed as a strong supporter of Manchester City F.C. , it was this single thing that drew him and Beth Clement (Sinéad Moynihan) together . Gilly was later made a fool by Beth and his best friend Rhys Ashworth (Andrew Moss) after they continued an affair despite the fact they were siblings , they split , Beth subsequently died and due to Gilly 's forgiving personality he later forgave Rhys . Holy Soap opined that this was a stand out moment of the character 's duration . Another storyline showing his timid personality was when he was mugged by a group of teenagers and was left fearing for his safety and even let them pick on him on the streets . In a further twist Gilly was left feeling so ashamed of the attack he pretended it was adult attackers fearing what people would think of him .

= = Binge drinking = =

During a spin @-@ off series titled Hollyoaks : The Morning After The Night Before , Gilly and Josh Ashworth head to Manchester . The series explored the dangers of bringe drinking and was funded by the Home Office . This was the start of changes implemented to the character that would continue into the main series . During the spin @-@ off he was portrayed having negative experiences with excessive alcohol consumption , of this Quinlan said : " Gilly and Josh had a little fight over Ruby (Nika McGuigan) , so the character did change due to all the drink consumed . His mood changed further when he attempted to run after Josh after the scuffle , and fell down a set of stairs in the nightclub , losing some of his teeth . After the incident he couldn 't wait to get back home to the village . "

He then stated that he wanted viewers to learn from his character 's scenario and be responsible while drinking , stating : " It will make people think twice about binge drinking and make people aware of the consequences if you do . " When the character lost his teeth it made the character 's low confidence worsen , Quinlan made comment of this saying : " Gilly 's confidence was always low really - self @-@ confidence , self @-@ belief . But having no teeth isn 't good to look at - not a good look . It 's going to draw attention to him and not do him any favours . " To enable continuity the character was scripted a slight speech impediment , behind the scenes Quinlan had a special palette fitted , it was a real one fitted by real life dentists and paid for by the show , it would black the character 's front teeth and leave a chipped one at the side . Quinlan also revealed it was quite difficult to speak when wearing it , but praised it as being realistic to have some form of speech impediment having teeth knocked out . Talking of his character 's changes and lessons learnt during the special episodes Quinlan said : " I think Gilly 's learnt to chill out a little , not to follow the crowd and be a sheep . Everyone was drinking loads , he got caught up in it and he came out on the wrong side of it . So , I think there is a lesson learned there - Gilly will do his own thing and not drink as much . "

= = = Relationship with Steph Cunningham = = =

Gilly was later seen using his new look in attempt to get the affections of Steph Cunningham (Carley Stenson) . After failing he acted out of character and struck up a scam date with Cheryl Brady (Bronagh Waugh) to make Steph jealous but it back @-@ fired when his false tooth came loose in Cheryl 's mouth . He later has relationships with Cheryl and Jem Costello (Helen Russell @-@ Clark) . Another change implemented during this period was a dramatic change to the character 's appearance after new series producer Lucy Allan and Quinlan came to a mutual decision to transform his hairstyle by shaving it all off , a stark contrast as during his early years he was constantly seen with long hair .

After Gilly eventually starts a relationship with Steph , she is diagnosed with cervical cancer and initially keeps the news a secret from him . Stenson spoke of Steph 's reasoning stating : " With Gilly , she 's embarrassed and doesn 't want him to look after her . " Speaking of the storyline Quinlan stated during an interview with Inside Soap : " I think Gilly 's really gutted that he didn 't get together with Steph sooner - he wasted so much time with Cheryl and Jem , when really he was in love with her . " At one point Steph cancels her wedding to Gilly because he cannot accept she is dying , of this Quinlan states : " His denial is not helping her . She 's trying to take this in her stride and wants to spend quality time with the people she loves before she goes . She tells him he has to accept she 's going to die or the wedding is off. and she hands back her engagement ring . " Quinlan has also stated he was eager for the pair to marry because of the " tear jerking " scenes it would create . Steph is killed off during a special week of episodes dubbed " fire week " . The cast filmed many stunts themselves , and Quinlan filmed scenes in front of a burning set , and he stated he " was very manly about it " whilst filming a ladder rescue scene . Gilly 's immediate grief resulted in the characters name trending on Twitter , of this Quinlan stated : " So glad that the ep had the impact that was desired ! Buzzing Gilly is trended again ! " Gilly 's grief is made worse because of Steph making the decision to die prematurely . Conversing this Quinlan said : " He 's grieving - he just can 't understand why she took her life like that . " He added that Gilly 's grief turns to anger because he cannot get the answers to his questions . Quinlan opined that he wanted Gilly to take a different root stating : " I 'd like to see Gilly go down a bit of a different route because he ? s been a bit of a push @-@ over in the past . I 'd like to see his character progress a bit more and I 'd like to see a side of him that we haven 't seen before . " Gilly 's grief then continued to get worse with Quinlan adding : " The poor guy 's heading off on a very dark journey that I 'm sure he 'll live to regret . " As Gilly is still so angry , at Steph 's funeral , the director of the episode asked Quinlan not to cry at all during the ceremony . Quinlan added " It was all so heartfelt , though , that I broke down for real a few times - and I think that 's going to come across in the final episode . "

= = = Sexual assault = = =

Gilly later finds himself attracted to Lynsey Nolan (Karen Hassan) ; he initially fears he is moving on too soon . Whilst interviewed by Inside Soap Quinlan describes the scenes in which they share their first kiss stating : " Gilly gets a new job at Look Sharpe as a personal trainer , and invites Lynsey for a free session , Lynsey 's looking pretty good when she turns up , so Gilly gets a bit sweaty and hot under the collar - and she ends up hopping into the tub and dragging Gilly in fully clothed ! " They later meet up and feel awkward because of Gilly 's grief for Steph , of this Quinlan adds : " They 're getting on well , but as soon as the word date is mentioned , it goes a bit wrong , nerves get the better of them and they have a huge row . " Off @-@ screen Quinlan was not happy with the fact Gilly is trying to move on quick , of this he states : " I thought it was a bit harsh , it feels like it 's a little too soon , doesn 't it ? We 'll just have to wait and see what the future holds for Gilly and Lynsey - but there 's no comparison to Steph ... "

In December 2010 Channel 4 released a press statement which revealed Jacqui McQueen (Claire Cooper) would cheat on Rhys with Gilly and that the night 's events would " change their lives forever " . It was later announced that the storyline would see Jacqui accusing Gilly of raping her . The storyline received much coverage in various tabloid newspapers who also branded it as a " shock plot " for the serial . None of the cast members involved in the storyline knew if Jacqui had actually been raped , of this Cooper states : ' They 're telling the same story but are looking at it from different angles . Just who to believe is a very grey area . It will split the village and the viewers . We don 't know what happened that night , We 've just been told that our characters each think they 're telling the truth . [Anthony] and I have talked about it a lot . I even read his scripts to try to work it out . The outcome will be a surprise for both of us.'

The storyline began to play out on @-@ screen in February 2011 , describing how it starts to develop and the effects it has on Gilly , a spokesperson for the serial told Inside Soap : " She runs into Gilly who 's also got relationship problems , . The drink starts to flow , and one thing leads to another ... Gilly consumed with guilt over sleeping with his best friend 's girlfriend , it doesn 't help that Jacqui leaves Gilly 's place while he 's asleep - and runs into Rhys . But after Gilly wakes up , he knows he has to tell his mate what he 's done . When Gilly confesses , Rhys is both furious and hurt , and lashes out violently . [...] Once he 's confronted Gilly , he demands an explanation from Jacqui - and is stunned when she tells him she was actually raped , it 's absolutely devastating . " The storyline later takes another turn when Gilly confronts Jacqui in the village with everyone watching , leading everyone to doubt if he did commit the act or not .

It was later revealed that the details were left unclear because Lime Pictures had decided to leave the outcome of the rape trial to viewers . Viewers have been given the chance to apply for the fictional jury , consisting of a cross section of society , including non @-@ Hollyoaks viewers . They will be shown evidence from the case and then decide whether Gilly is guilty or innocent . Chief executive of Lime Pictures , Carolyn Reynolds stated : " We wanted to open up the thorny issue of how hard it is to be a juror and whether the court room is the best place to resolve some of these questions about rape . " The storyline was developed with the " St Mary 's Sexual Assault Referral Centre " and other charities . DCI Ben Snuggs , leader of Don 't Cross the Line campaign , explained : " This storyline represents an issue that we see all too often , involving whether consent is clear on the part of both parties involved in sexual activity , and particularly when alcohol and drugs are involved . "

In late 2011 , Quinlan announced his departure from Hollyoaks . The serial decided to write a conclusion to the rape storyline , airing in a special three @-@ hander episode centered on Gilly , Jacqui and Rhys which featured Gilly confessing to the rape as he knew Jacqui was not consenting when he raped her .

= = Storylines = =

Gilly is from Manchester . When the Ashworths move to Hollyoaks , Gilly decides to move with them . He sneaks into a Halloween party at HCC , Gilly kisses Jessica Harris (Jennifer Biddall) and assumes the role of her wannabe boyfriend . This leads to him pretending to be a philosophy

student just to get close to her and finds a rival in Mark Jury (Asier Newman) , Jessica 's real boyfriend . The two battled for affections but Jessica could not decide between them and ended both relationships . Neville (Jim Millea) buys Drive ' n ' Buy and Gilly becomes an employee , mainly so he can become close to Sarah Barnes (Loui Batley) . The pair start going on dates , however , Sarah loses interest . Any chance of a relationship ends when Gilly reveals Rhys slept with her mother , Kathy Barnes (Sarah Jane Buckley) . Rhys becomes jealous over Gilly and Sarah and kicks him out of the home . Gilly moves into the student halls with ex @-@ girlfriend , Jess . After Gilly defends Zak after he is accused of stealing Zoë 's belongings , he and Rhys renew their friendship and he moves back into the Ashworths ' . Gilly finds out Rhys is an escort and decides to be one himself , unaware the job involves nothing sexual .

Rhys discovers Zak and Gilly are planning a strip show at nightclub The Loft . Rhys agrees to join , however , is replaced by Calvin Valentine (Ricky Whittle) . During the strip show , Rhys tries to chat up a girl , who is only interested in Gilly . Gilly meets a young woman named Molly Traverse (Kate Deakin) , whom he is put off by when she mentions marriage . During her battle with anorexia , Hannah Ashworth (Emma Rigby) and friend , Melissa Hurst (Carla Chases) , begin being horrible to Gilly . Hannah hits him , however , after returning from hospital , she apologises . After finding out his girlfriend Beth is his half @-@ sister , Rhys begins being jealous after she and Gilly grow close . Gilly and Beth grow closer and kiss . They start a relationship and agree to take it slowly . Gilly decides to become a lifeguard . Whilst cleaning up , Gilly sees boss , Simon Crosby (Simon Lawson) , leaving a cubicle with a crying child . Gilly automatically assumes he is a paedophile . Gilly breaks into Simon 's house and finds pictures of children in their swimwear , one of whom is Tom Cunningham (Ellis Hollins) . He also finds a boy 's room with a lock on the door . Gilly shows various residents the proof . Angry parents begin to gather outside Simon 's home and vandalise it by smashing the windows . Realising his reputation is ruined , Simon attempts suicide . Simon 's wife Gemma Grosby (Gemma Langford) shows Gilly a picture of their son , who died . Gilly realises Simon is innocent and feels guilty .

Gilly goes backpacking around Thailand . At this time , Beth and Rhys rekindle their romance and start an affair . Guilty , Beth leaves with Gilly and they return later in 2008 . Gilly proposes to Beth , who agrees to make Rhys , who is in a relationship with Mercedes McQueen (Jennifer Metcalfe) , jealous . Michaela McQueen (Hollie @-@ Jay Bowes) catches Rhys and Beth kissing and tells Gilly , who refuses to believe . Later , Michaela tells Gilly to go home in an attempt to make him see the truth . Gilly does so and catches Rhys and Beth sleeping together . He begins to beat up Rhys and calls the police . Realising they face a prison sentence for incest , Rhys and Beth leave Hollyoaks , however , they are involved in a car crash which results in Beth 's death . After time away , Rhys returns and he and Gilly decide to make up .

Gilly meets Leila Roy (Lena Kaur) and the pair begin a relationship . The romance is short as Leila tells Gilly they cannot be together . Gilly is upset by the breakup . After a break of several months , Gilly returned . At the SU Bar , Gilly begins looking for a new girlfriend with Josh Ashworth (Sonny Flood) . A drunken Hannah then throws herself at Gilly and tries to kiss him . Gilly tells her he sees her as a sister . She then apologises . In Hollyoaks : The Morning After the Night Before , Gilly goes to Manchester to party with Josh . Josh and Gilly begin a fight which ends with Gilly losing his front teeth . After returning to the village , Gilly begins to develop feelings for Steph and is jealous towards her relationship with Fernando Fernandez (Jeronimo Best) .

Whilst at a boot camp trip with Steph and Fernando , Steph believes Gilly has feelings for Sarah , and is unaware his feelings are for her . During the trip , after Steph , Fernando and Gilly leave , Sarah is killed in a tragic parachute jump . Gilly writes a poem for Steph , and in it , offends Fernando . When Steph reads it she is angry at Gilly , who tells her it is Rhys who has the feelings for her . Fernando punches Rhys as Gilly convinces Steph he had nothing to do with the poem . In order to make Steph jealous , Gilly kisses Cheryl who is trying to make Calvin jealous . Despite using him , Cheryl develops true feelings for Gilly . Frankie Osborne (Helen Pearson) works out that Gilly is in love with Steph . However , Gilly denies it , saying that he loves Cheryl . Cheryl catches Gilly looking at an engagement ring , which Fernando has bought for Steph . She assumes the ring is for her and tells everyone in The Dog in the Pond that she and Gilly are getting married .

Gilly reluctantly goes along , not wanting to hurt her feelings . Cheryl notices the growing closeness between Gilly and Steph and confronts him . On discovering he is in love with Steph , she breaks off their engagement , at the same time Steph and Fernando break up . Gilly goes travelling with Zoe and Mike Barnes (Tony Hirst) . Steph , after being told about Gilly 's feelings for her , rushes after him to admit her love just as Gilly leaves . Gilly returns on 5 March with his girlfriend Jem . Steph is upset when he proposes to Jem . Steph admits her feelings to Gilly , but he decides to stay with Jem . Rhys tells Jem that Gilly still loves Steph causing them to split up . Gilly and Steph finally confess their true feelings to each other and begin a relationship .

Steph is diagnosed with cervical cancer and does not tell Gilly , who later finds out from Cheryl . Gilly is angry at Steph for keeping this from him . Steph undergoes a hysterectomy to remove the cancer . However , doctors tell her and Gilly it failed . She is soon told her cancer is terminal . Gilly takes the news bad . The pair split up when Steph feels it is unfair on Gilly , but they get back together and start to plan their wedding . Gilly and Steph eventually get married beside the village river .

Gilly and Steph take a walk round the village on bonfire night where she finally admits she 's scared of dying , they have a heart to heart conversation where she realises she 's it is how she is going to die that scares her . When the pair see restaurant Il Gnosh on fire , Gilly rings for help whilst Steph runs into the burning building to save Amy Barnes (Ashley Slanina @-@ Davies) and her children . Gilly stands on a ladder outside and begs her to come out , however she tells him she 's ready to die and walks back into the flames . Gilly deals with his grief by becoming angry that Steph has ' left ' him . After Rhys tries to comfort him , Gilly goes into Steph 's room and trashes it after seeing that she has still kept her photo of her and Max Cunningham (Matt Littler) on their wedding day , placed on a table . Gilly argues with Steph 's family as they blame him for not saving her and disagree on the funeral arrangements . Frankie then tells him that Steph had never loved him and that Max would have done anything to save Steph from the fire , making him further deeply upset and angry . He starts drinking heavily , causing trouble on many occasions .

Gilly starts to date Lynsey , he initially thinks it is too soon after Steph 's death . He is shocked when she finds a lump and it halts their relationship . He sleeps with Jacqui when they get drunk , she tells Rhys he sexually assaulted her . She reports him to the police and Gilly faces trial . Steph 's family support Gilly however many villagers do not .

During the trial it is shown Gilly and Jacqui remember the same events very differently . The jury find Gilly not guilty however the events ruin Gilly and Rhys ' friendship as Rhys eventually believes Jacqui . Lynsey also takes Jacqui 's side . Gilly then goes to spend some time away from the village . He returns in September and is given a job at Chez Chez by Cheryl leading Rhys to quit before punching him .

Gilly moves in with Cheryl , and they begin to rekindle their romantic relationship . But when they try to become physically intimate , Gilly becomes overwhelmed with memories of the rape and cannot go through with sleeping with Cheryl . Later that night , he goes to Rhys ' and Jacqui 's flat , and in a three @-@ hander episode , the three of them discuss everything that 's happened and they all eventually come to the conclusion that Gilly did indeed rape Jacqui . Jacqui forgives him , and Gilly decides that he must leave the village . He confesses the rape to everyone in his life and says his goodbyes . Cheryl in particular is devastated by Gilly 's abrupt departure and begs for him to stay , but he refuses . Jacqui comforts Cheryl as she sobs on the steps outside her flat , while Gilly and Rhys share one final look goodbye before he leaves the village forever .

= = Reception = =

Quinlan was nominated for sexiest male at the 2010 Inside Soap Awards . He was also nominated in the category of " Best Serial Drama Performance " at the 2011 National Television Awards . That same year he was nominated in the category of " Best Actor " at the British Soap Awards . Ruth Deller of Lowculture has criticised Gilly , branding him as a poor character . Commenting on Steph 's death she stated : " No wonder that , gazing upon his face , she realised she was better off burning to death than enduring one more day staring at him . " She praised Paul Marquess ' cast cull of 2010

, but stated that Gilly is " still hanging around like that bit of dog mess you can ? t get out of the grooves in your trainers . " She also opined : " A damp drizzle of a character , Gilly hasn ? t worked as Rhys ? s wide boy sidekick , hasn ? t worked as a loved @-@ up hippy , hasn ? t worked as a doting husband , doesn ? t work on any level . " Also stating she wanted Hollyoaks serial killer Silas Blissett (Jeff Rawle) to kill him . Colin Robertson , writing for British tabloid newspaper The Sun brands Gilly a kind @-@ hearted type character .

Roz Laws writing for the Sunday Mercury felt there was " plenty of chemistry " present between Gilly and Steph . Their relationship was frequently commented on by the Daily Mail 's Jaci Stephen in her weekly soap column . She expressed disinterest in Steph and Cheryl 's rivalry over Gilly , and found it implausible that Jem and Steph would quarrel over him . When the two finally admitted their feelings for one another in May 2010 , Stephen accurately predicted that their happiness would be short @-@ lived . She bemoaned the lack of subtlety in the scripting of the lead @-@ up to their wedding , observing : " Of course , you know that the moment she says that nothing is going to stop her marrying Gilly , the Grim Reaper will be pulling up in his hearse , shortly behind the wedding car . "