

# Stillington News

Issue 304

[www.stillingtonvillage.org](http://www.stillingtonvillage.org)

May 2020

The village has been keeping busy showing their support; clapping for carers every Thursday evening and below are just a small selection of rainbows found around Stillington.



## Stillington Post Office & Stores

*Owned by the community. Run by volunteers.*

### - opening hours during the May Bank Holidays

Friday 8th May (VE Day)  
and Monday 25th May

Shop will be open  
7.00am to 10.30am

Post Office closed all day

**There will be no home deliveries for the**

**self-isolating on these days - please place your orders for delivery on Thursday 7th May or Tuesday 26th May.**

(More information on home deliveries on page 2)

### Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels via Easingwold District Community Care have been extended to five days a week. A freshly cooked, hot two course meal, is delivered by a team of friendly volunteers. **Please contact Helen Beck on 07541 356046 or email: [helen.beck@edcca.org.uk](mailto:helen.beck@edcca.org.uk)** The daily cost is £6.80 with free delivery. Payment will be by invoice.

### Stillington Charity for Relief in Need

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#### Here to help

If you need assistance or know of anyone who does please contact

**Adryenne Hope,  
Secretary on Tel. 811039**

Please email contributions for the **June** issue to [news@stillingtonvillage.org](mailto:news@stillingtonvillage.org) by

**Wednesday 20th May**

### Take Away & Delivery from The White Bear

With trying times ahead we have made the decision to trial a Take Away and Delivery Menu within Stillington of hot meals, beer & wine direct to your door.

The details are still being finalised but if you would like to keep up to date please ring us on **01347 810 338**,

**Follow us on Facebook or check our Website**  
[www.thewhitebearinn-york.co.uk](http://www.thewhitebearinn-york.co.uk)

### Life in Stillington April 2020 and The Good that comes out of the Bad

The Value of village life with people around; good neighbours; a smile and "Hello"; our surgery & medical support; Shop & PO providing local food, groceries & social contact; internet for fun, activities and schooling; our three pubs and fish & chip shop all offering Takeaways; glorious spring weather; gardening; the birdsong with minimal traffic, machines & aircraft; discovering, reviving and learning new talents; time to read (hurrah for the Telephone Box library); decorating & DIY if materials are to hand; flowers to enjoy - for the kitchen table; the windowsill; to paint or draw; 8.00pm Thursday evenings "Thank you Clapping" for key workers; local walks, running and cycling routes; offer of home shopping; enjoying home cooking; many volunteers helping across the village; shopping online and of course social media interaction for family, friends, support and business meetings; and finally hair clippers for home hair cutting.....

# Stillington Post Office & Stores

*Owned by the community. Run by volunteers.*

We are pleased to be able to provide home delivery for all those people who are self isolating and cannot get any other help with their food shopping. Remember that we are a small village store providing the basics so we may not be able to provide everything you require.

## How to order

**Preferably use the dedicated email address [stillingtonshoporders@gmail.com](mailto:stillingtonshoporders@gmail.com)**

**Or phone daytime - 01347 811911 or 07981 912790 or evening 01347 811191**

**Please do not phone the shop as you will be asked to phone these numbers**

**Give name, address and phone number and, if needed, directions to your home.**

For requests received before 12 noon we would expect to deliver on the same day. Orders subject to availability and there may be restrictions on high-demand items.

**You will receive a bill with each order which can be paid by cheque or through a shop account**



## **Life at Stillington Shop and Post Office during the Coronavirus pandemic**

This has been a challenging, but very heart-warming time in the Shop and Post Office as we have adapted to life under lockdown. The safety of our staff and volunteers as well as our customers is very important. Maintaining social distancing has been difficult in the small shop area - but customers are generally making sure that there are only '2 people in the shop at a time' - thank you. Quite a lot of our regular volunteers are in the vulnerable groups so it was wonderful that sufficient new (and younger) volunteers came forward to help in the shop, including the 6.30am paper sorting - and also with home deliveries. A number of our key players have been able to work from home or have worked on their own rather than in teams.

The Post Office has been particularly busy, as Easingwold Post Office was closed for a couple of weeks, but is now open again. Easter brought a lot of extra parcel traffic as gifts were sent by post rather than being delivered in person - in fact nationally there was as much traffic as at Christmas. So thank you to the PO staff.

Shop supplies are settling down after a lot of hard work by our grocery buying team and we now even have flour and pasta. However such items will continue to sell out quickly. Fresh food is in high demand. We now have daily deliveries of bread from various bakers and also a large green grocery delivery. Milk is delivered around lunch time on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and despite higher volumes, may sell out before the next delivery. Meat comes on Tuesdays and Fridays and again in increased amounts.

The home delivery service is being well used by those who need to self-isolate. There have been about 30 deliveries a week so far, going to Brandsby and Farlington as well as all areas of Stillington. Initially we tried to complete these orders during normal business but this was too disruptive so we now close for an hour 1.30 to 2.30 every day to complete the orders. Thank you to the team of deliverers - as so many of you volunteered you won't get called on very often - but it all helps.

The 'back room' volunteers have been working very hard as the volume of food going through the shop has increased significantly. After the goods are ordered from the supplier, we have an IT team who record all incoming stock, a team who price-mark the goods, and a new team working after hours to restock the shelves every day.

Rest assured that the village Shop and Post Office are in a very good position to continue to serve our community. Margaret Price

## **Don't Quit**

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are nigh,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit -  
Rest if you must but do not quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As everyone of us sometimes learns,  
And many a fellow turns about,  
When he might have won had he stuck it out.  
Don't give up though the pace seems slow -  
You may succeed with another blow.

Success is failure turned inside out -  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,  
And you can never tell how close you are,  
It may be near but it seems afar;  
So stick to the fight when you are hardest hit, -  
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

Author Unknown

## **Stillington**

### **Squash Club**

End of Year accounts have been agreed; heating controls are turned to a minimum; the Mycourts computerised lights and booking system are giving the club a payment holiday; membership fees are being looked at...AND Planning for re-opening is underway!

Your editors are: Emma Johnson & Tracy Sinclair. If you would like to contact us please do so using the Stillington News email.

## Neighbourhood Watch

1. North Yorkshire Police advise us that suspicious emails concerning the Corona virus are being sent to many North Yorkshire residents and this is being replicated across the country. The Government Communication headquarters (GCHQ) is asking members of the public to report suspicious emails to

report@phishing.gov.uk, and National Cyber Security Centre's automated scanning system will check for scam emails and remove the criminal sites.

2. Beware of a scam purporting to be from Tesco offering free food vouchers; you are directed to a website & asked for log-in information & personal details.

3. Citizens Advice Mid-North Yorkshire can help you deal with problems caused by the Coronavirus crisis. General enquiries by phone 0300 3309 036 Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm (local rate). For advice online go to [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/coronavirus](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/coronavirus). Emergency assistance call 01748 823862 for those eligible for Food Bank Vouchers & Charitable Grants.

**My name is Vivienne Race and I am a Costume Supervisor for Film and TV.** I am the Coordinator of a charitable organisation, MADE WITH APPRECIATION. My army of makers, all colleagues from the productions I have worked on, are making scrubs and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for NHS staff and care-workers.

I am asking for donations of old or new, clean duvet covers (at least double size) and pillow cases to convert into "scrubs bags". These are bags into which used scrubs will be placed and then laundered to prevent cross contamination, and returned to be worn again.

Also any jersey T shirts or sweat-shirts to be made into headbands, with buttons on (to help ease soreness behind ears caused by the elastic on the face masks Medics and Care workers have to wear at all times).

Please put any donations into a plastic bag and WRITE THE DATE ON. This is because Covid 19 can survive up to 3 days on plastic so the bags have to be "quarantined" before they can be opened and the fabric used.

The bags may be left at my house: Appletrees, South Back Lane, Stillington, (the bungalow with the woven fence) either on the path or drive.

If anyone wants to do a bit of sewing and feel making bags for NHS scrubs is something they could do, please do contact me, and we can talk through what is needed

I am contactable on 811005 or email [viviennerace@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:viviennerace@hotmail.co.uk)

## Lost Keys

To Whom It May Concern  
Keys found belonging to Ms/Mrs K Smith of Stillington have been handed in to the Coop on Clarence Street, York

## GOOD NEIGHBOURS VISITOR

(from last month's issue)  
- Correction:  
Diana Mitchinson  
07971 291594.  
The Green and Mill Lane

## Telephone Volunteer

Have you spoken to anyone today? Would you like to hear a friendly voice?

I am a qualified Rydedale Carer and used to carry out house visits to those with wives as carers so that they could have an hour or two to themselves.

Sadly I had to stop doing this when my eyes deteriorated and I could no longer drive.

But I can use the TELEPHONE.

If you would like me to ring you for a chat all you need to do is make one call to me so I know your number and we can arrange a convenient time for me to ring you.

I am already doing this with a number of people in Stillington. So far, no one has rung off!

I am Robert and my Telephone Number is 810513. Please encourage others to ring as well.

**Please ring me 810513**

I am waiting for your call. Remember you do not need to be lonely when you have a phone.

## In case you haven't been bombarded with enough websites in the past 6 weeks, here are a couple more to try:

At The Village Hall we have a long-term relationship with Rural Arts, most of whose staff have been furloughed but who came up with a quick response to lockdown. In their usual wacky way, they invented #RADISH (COVID-19 response) - Rural Arts Daily Inspiration while Staying at Home. This is a programme of broadcasts Monday - Friday related to practical arts and crafts, accessible via Facebook and twitter, even if you don't have accounts with these platforms - connection instructions on Rural Arts website. Workshops and Art Club are also available as live sessions via Zoom, which can be downloaded free.

Another long-standing friend is saxophonist Snake Davis, who is broadcasting live from home on Friday and Saturday evenings and also offering saxophone workshops to budding musicians. He is sometimes joined by guest artistes and is trying to play uplifting music, interspersed with comments to folk who are chatting to him live on-line. It made nice background entertainment to meal preparation and washing up one night.

**Your Village Defibrillator is kept in the Church Porch Available 24/7**

**\*Remember: Call an Ambulance, start CPR, get the Defibrillator - it will tell you what to do\***

## STILLINGTON GARDENING CLUB

May 2020

### Plant Sale.

The Stillington Gardening Club Annual Plant Sale has sadly, but unavoidably, had to be cancelled. The club is making arrangements for the plants which have already been grown to be sold. Please complete and return the order form circulated with the Stillington News. You will be contacted and arrangements made for the delivery or collection of the plants when orders have been collated and possibly rationed if demand is very high. Orders must be in by p.m. May 7th. See bottom of insert sheet for details.

### May Tips for the Garden:

- Start planting out summer bedding towards the end of this month in warmer parts of the country.
- Look after your finished spring bulbs for next year.
- Remember to open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days. You can also damp down your greenhouse on hot days to increase humidity and deter red spider mites.
- Keep your lavender plants healthy with regular pruning.
- Thin out drifts of hardy annuals.
- Harden off half-hardy plants by leaving them outside during the day and bringing them back under cover at night for 7 to 10 days before planting outdoors.
- Plant summer hanging baskets, adding good-quality compost, slow-release fertiliser and water-retaining crystals, to keep them in top condition. Protect them from late frost under cover.
- Continue dividing herbaceous perennials to improve vigour and create new plants.
- Divide hostas as they come into growth.
- Prune penstemons now - cut all the old shoots back to the base, providing there is new growth at the bottom of the plant. If there are no new shoots at the base, cut just above the lowest set of leaves.

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### Weather Report - April 2020

#### Rainfall

The second half of March was even drier than the first half, so the total for the month came to a mere 15mm. This is the lowest rainfall in March since 2011, when we had only 8mm. The average figure for the month is 43mm.

There has only been one shower in the first half of April, on the 5th, giving a paltry 2.25mm. Following floods in February are we to have drought in April?

#### Temperature

The highest temperature I recorded in March was 18.8°C on the 25th. April has already bettered that, with 23.8°C on the 11th of the month.

The lowest temperature in March, -1.1°C, occurred early in the month, on the 5th/6th. So far nights in April have been generally mild, though it did drop to 1.2°C on the 13/14th.

March was not only dry but also sunny. My solar panels generated 370kWh, the highest March figure for four years. **MT**

### Stillington Primary School

What strange times! The world of education hasn't escaped the chaos that the Corona virus has caused. Instead of using this article to tell you all about the exciting start to Summer term at Stillington Primary, I must tell you about how well the children are tackling the activities that we have set for them to complete - at home! This is strange and challenging for the staff and pupils alike, but as always, it is so important to seize the positives from it. As a parent of a 10 year old and a 16 year-olds, I must also pay tribute to the parents for supporting the children so well in their studies- it isn't easy when there are so many other distractions at home.

At some point the school will reopen, and as a staff team we are mindful that we will need to give the children additional support through this period, especially as some will be moving into a different Key Stages, class or school. Hopefully we will be able to make the end of this Summer term even more special and memorable for them.

We are also excited to be welcoming three new starters into Reception in September, the newest members of the Stillington team! We will be developing a transition programme between now and then to make this big move as fun and positive as possible.

Behind the scenes and despite the virus, the school is continuing to work towards the exciting collaboration with Foston and Terrington Schools, so that everything is in place for September. We will share more details of this in later articles.

Take care, Mr Robinson

### A small reminder of the times before Social Distancing:



**On Friday 13th March , 17 willing volunteers arrived at the village hall to do their bit towards keeping our village smart.**

## **Countryside Notes May 2020**

Thursday 16th April, another wonderful warm spring day. However, after the horrific wet winter the land has dried out and is now needing a warm rain to get seeds germinating. How a month has altered life in our whole world, there is much pain around and our sympathies go to all who are suffering at this time. Isolation must be awful if you live in a multi-storey block of flats or in a care home, away from loved ones, We are so fortunate to live in our rural community, where the birds serenade us from early morning and the flowers bloom in every garden, with ever-changing colours as spring unfolds.

The day after writing the last notes a group of small birds flitted into a Thorn bush and I was able to identify them, the light being right, as a bunch of Redpolls. I have mentioned this group of birds in other issues and being infuriated that I could not identify them. I was musing how pleased I was that at last I knew for sure who they were before they fly to the continent for summering when a bird flew low not six feet away (it hadn't heard of the 2 metre Rule!); it flew like an arrow, a Sparrow Hawk. It was amazing how soon the Blackbirds were scolding and warning other birds to lie low.

Another unusual find was a round ball appeared, less than a golf ball in size and white. I recognised it straight away, even though I hadn't seen one before. It was the first stage in the development of a Stinkhorn fungi, whose fruiting body gives off a carrion like stink that you can smell at 30 yards. It has a Latin name of Phallus Impudicus, which is a good description of an erect fruiting body. The fungi's spores are not windborne but are sticky and carried by insects. These fungi, according to the book, are edible when fried and have a fishy taste, so there! Sexy bit over!!

Yesterday a ewe had a lamb and another ewe decided why go through all the pain to have a lamb; it would be better to pinch this new lamb. She was most persistent and an hour later she was succeeding when I went to check. The actual mother came to me and in her own way asked me to help her sort out her problem. I was touched that she could trust me and would come and ask. Animals can teach us a lot about life. Don't be frightened to ask or talk in these lonely days. There is always somebody to listen and a problem shared is a problem halved. Keep on the bright side and enjoy the wonder of life as the Swallows come back (2 were about on the 13th!!). We shall overcome!

**R & M**

## **Lockdown Notes May 2020**

Although this time of restricted movement and fear of what the future holds came as such a shock and happened virtually overnight, there have been some blessings. Being 'given permission' not to dash about ticking boxes on our proverbial to-do lists has led to a more relaxed approach to life and a different relationship to time.

Actually watching Spring unfold around us has been amazing, seeing leaves open on our new hedge overnight. I'd never noticed before how many different types of what I used to call dandelions there are, all with varying sizes and design of leaf and flower. I'm conducting tortoise experiments to see which has the favoured flavour. I am also watching the birds turning the food bowl over almost immediately it is put out to remove hidden grapes and tomatoes. I've even let the grass grow so that the tortoise can graze on our own weeds.

Some folk began lockdown with good intentions and have done nothing – there's always tomorrow. A friend tells me she is still considering turning out her cutlery drawer. I have done lots of physical stuff whilst ignoring paperwork so far, waiting for the rainy days we don't seem to be having now, when I really have to stay indoors. But the garden looks good, the garage is tidy, the fence is nearly painted. Evenings have been spent with jigsaws and knitting a ball and crocodile for a great grandson.

One of the real blessings has been unexpected phone calls/ WhatsApp messages/emails from friends who have been sorting through old correspondence or Christmas cards and felt moved to make contact. That has had a knock-on effect of giving me the impetus to start responding to the little pile of people I intend to get in touch with sometime. I'm sending a card each week to a relative in a care home too and only hope that is bringing some brief contact with the outside world. I found a website that would translate a letter into Swedish for me to make it easier for my penfriend of over 50 years to read – she finds her school English a little rusty these days. Which I guess is telling us what really matters – our relationships with other people and the world around us, not the material stuff which fills our lives 'normally'. Let's hope the whole world learns some lessons from what is a tragic and distressing time for so many people, but offers us the possibility of a changed way of life in the future, where health, social care and education take prime positions and where we learn to be more self-sufficient in every sense.

**Yvonne**

## **Stillington Parish Council**

Due to the Coronavirus, the Stillington Parish Council has suspended the Physical normal Parish Council meetings for the near future. However, all Parish Council work is still being attended to through the Parish Clerk by the utilisation of E-mails to and from the Local Parish Councillors. Consideration of Planning application and financial spending has been considered and acted upon in the usual manner without breaking any government advice. All e-mails and letters have been stored and are available for inspection by the Public by contacting the Parish Clerk Mrs Mary Midgley. This will change in the near future; the Parish Council meeting will be conducted as a Video meeting and access to the public will be by Telephone on the time of the meeting and via a Video link from our web Page. It is hoped that we will have a Video Meeting on the First Wednesday in May 2020 at 7.30 pm. Please note that the Video meeting will be recorded and minutes produced as per the regulation of Parish Council meetings.

Regards Stillington Parish Clerk

Hope and Peace. It is without doubt that we are in unprecedented times, not just as a nation but the whole world is experiencing the effects of the Coronavirus. I would not be surprised to learn that you are fed up with hearing about COVID-19, after all, every news report covers the global pandemic at length. In these troubling times we need to be sensible and we need to be wise. Sensible, in how we live out our lives within the lockdown restrictions, following the advice offered to stay home, stay safe, protect the NHS. Wise, in knowing and doing the right thing, and that is much bigger than we might think. Doing the right thing by taking care of ourselves, making sure we are okay, that we have enough of the essentials, that we are behaving responsibly. The bigger issue for me is the concern I have that we are really looking after ourselves, physically, emotionally, spiritually, and mentally. It is important that we recognise these four aspects of who we are in our humanness and that we look after our whole selves. May I be clear at this point, I am not inferring an 'I'm all right Jack' attitude, far from it, if we do not look after ourselves, we cannot possibly look after others and that takes wisdom. I want you all to stay safe and stay well. When our Prime Minister made that unprecedented address to the nation at 8.30pm on March 23 our lives changed and we need to recognise that this crisis will change us, change society, change the world, I hope for the good of all humanity. If we just breeze through this period in our history without taking time to reflect on the experience, then people will come out of this changed and you will not. Do take some time to reflect on where you are, who you are, and how we are all connected, all in this together. That togetherness has never been so evident as it is now for generations. You only have to look at how in each village the community has rallied – stepped up – come together to help one another and isn't it good! I have deliberately chosen not to write a deeply spiritual Christian letter this month; we all know we have just had Easter, and just like those first disciples that first Easter, we too are shut in our homes for fear of going outside because its unsafe. We too are experiencing a race of emotions as we deal with the social isolation of not going out, of not mixing with friends and family. But there is lots that Easter can teach us, and it is this, Easter is a sign of hope, renewal, and new life, it is peace, light, and love. That is my prayer for you in this letter, that whoever you are, you may be blessed with hope; given the gift of peace and you know the Light and Love of the risen Lord. God bless, and stay safe, stay well. Rev. Steve.

### CHURCH SERVICES

Church services at St Nicholas Parish Church are suspended, and the Church is closed during the Coronavirus pandemic to help to reduce the risk of passing on the Virus.

A number of churches in the York area are offering 'virtual' worship on Sundays, go to [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

If you need to talk about funerals, weddings or baptisms please contact our Priest in Charge Revd Steve Whiting 01347 810251

If you would just like to talk to someone by telephone about Christian matters or more generally about your response to the pandemic and its effect on you then these people are available as well as Revd Steve.

**Canon Robert Law 01347 810940**

**Margaret Price 01347 811262**

**Muriel Law 01347 810484**

**Janet Martin 01347 822981**

### St Nicholas, Stillington

**Priest:**

Revd Stephen Whiting **810251**

**Church Wardens:**

Muriel Law **810484**

**Muriellaw1@gmail.com**

Janet Martin **822981**

**Jessie.jm158@gmail.com**

### St Leonard's, Farlington

Although all public worship is cancelled until further notice and the church is locked, St Leonard's churchyard is looking lovely and is open to everyone, every day, for private prayer and 'quiet time.' If you need any help from the church please contact the Vicar, the Revd. Steve Whiting on 01347 810251 or one of the Churchwardens – Sally Wright 01347 878745 or Richard Haste 01347 878581 / [richardhaste@btinternet.com](mailto:richardhaste@btinternet.com) The Vicar is producing weekly reflections and prayers. If you would like to be linked to these or receive the printed version please contact one of the Churchwardens.

### Methodist Chapel

**Minister:** Rev E Cushion **821460**

**Stewards:** Robin Jackson **810250**

Gareth Papps **810094**

If you would like to sit in the Chapel garden the seat is there and the garden is very pretty. We are streaming services each Sunday just contact Robin, it has been good to worship together though, apart. The Methodist Church is still available for requests for prayer.

You may ring Rev Elizabeth Cushion 821460, or Robin Jackson 810250.

We wish everybody well at this difficult time and ask that we all keep in touch.

### St Mary's Marton

**Church**

**Contact:** Caroline Hunt **878242**  
Sue Whiting **810251**

Warmest wishes to all our visitors and worshippers, and especially to those who had planned weddings at Marton this year.

On a positive note, it sounds as if the wildlife in the churchyard is thriving in our absence this spring!

If you would like to join the mailing list for Marton Friends (either to receive occasional emails or a paper copy) please contact [cjhunt.home@gmail.com](mailto:cjhunt.home@gmail.com) or ring 878242.

We are also trying to regularly update [facebook.com/martonchurch](https://facebook.com/martonchurch) and [achurchnearyou.com/church/18888/](http://achurchnearyou.com/church/18888/) with any relevant news or information.

Please just let us know if you would welcome any support, prayers or a friendly phonecall.

Caroline Hunt and Sue Whiting (Churchwardens).

### 200 Club

**1st Mr R S Dodd - £50**

**2nd. Mrs E Silcock**

**3rd Mr N Hutchinson**

**3rd Dr A D Martin**

**Drawn by "Our Ernie"**