Stillington News

Issue 337

www.stillingtonvillage.org

February 2023



## Community Work and Litter Picking

We thank Duke of Edinburgh students who chose to do their Volunteering activity outdoors in the community. Both Matthew and Liam gallantly helped to clear the litter from the Crayke road end lay-by as part of other tasks including clearing leaves from footpaths, the S&SC car park, cutting back vegetation, tidying the bus shelters, cleaning the bus shelter windows and helping with the village bonfire collection.

Also thank you to Dick and Peter: two village gents who deserve a New Year medal for their clearance of litter and dog poo left in a pheasant feed bin along the Stripe walk to the south of the village. And yet another plea for all walkers to please take your litter and dog poo bags home or to a 'proper bin' which will be emptied.

## Stillington Good Neighbours

We are pleased to welcome to our team of visitors/helpers, Robert Churton.

## Robert will be covering North Back Lane along with Jenny Popplewell. He can be contacted on 810513.

Please pass on information about newcomers and neighbours who may need support at difficult times

If you are unsure about your contact please ring Rita Bresnan 810024

## Neighbourhood Watch How safe is your car?

Keyless car theft, or relay theft, is a crime that's on the rise. Thieves use electronic devices to amplify your key's signal and open the locks on your car. Check your car's manual to see if you can turn the key off. Turning the key off makes it impossible for thieves to amplify the key's signal.

Purchase a key signal blocking case to prevent thieves from amplifying the key's signal. Companies have started selling these cases to help car owners protect their keys. The cases completely block your key's signal so thieves cannot use it to unlock your car. Place your keys in the pouch when you're at home, school, or work.

North Yorkshire Police have received a number of 'Courier Fraud' reports since Christmas.

This occurs when a fraudster contacts victims by telephone purporting to be a police officer or bank official. To substantiate their claim, the caller might be able to confirm some basic details about the victim such as their full name and address. The caller may also offer a telephone number for the victim to telephone or ask the victim to call the number on the back of their bank card to check that they are genuine. Either the number offered will not be genuine or, where a genuine number is suggested, the fraudster will stay on the line and pass the victim to a different individual. Victims may be asked to attend their bank and withdraw money.

Remember the police nor bank official will NEVER ask you to move money or withdraw money to assist in an investigation.

## **Volunteers Requested**

At the moment our emergency services can take longer to attend call outs which result in extended waiting times and increased anxiety in an already stressful situation.

Not everyone has someone they feel they can call on and so an idea has been put forward regarding having people within the village willing to share their telephone numbers and to be ready to assist in a life or death emergency, or one of serious concern for someone's well being.

Their role would be to offer emotional and practical support, for example, staying with the caller to keep them calm or helping to organise further help as required. It would not be to administer first aid unless suitably qualified.

Examples of an emergency situation could be:

- Serious injury through trauma
- Emergency medical condition eg Suffering a stroke
- Death of a family member

- A vulnerable person going missing from home This would only be used in a true emergency, not for help locating lost dogs or unblocking pipes!

It would work as follows:

The emergency services should be called first by the resident to initiate a formal response. Once this is done, and if further help is needed immediately, a call could be placed by the resident to a local volunteer to assist them whilst awaiting the emergency services. Having a friendly face present at a time of great stress could be very reassuring.

The list of those who would be willing to volunteer their services in these situations would be published in the Stillington News, and the residents of Stillington would keep a cut out of this list for their records, to be used in such an emergency.

It is proposed that the village be divided into five regions to keep response times as fast as possible.

- 1. Parkfield, Mill Lane / Hall View and houses surrounding The Green
- 2. South Back Lane and Carr Lane
- Main Street between Carr Lane and The village Hall
- 4. North Back Lane
- 5. High Street from the pond to Carr Lane

It would be good to have about 5/6 volunteers from each region so that there will always be someone close by if needed.

Hopefully this would never be needed, but it could be very beneficial to someone coping with a very difficult situation and under great stress.

If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Helen Armstrong on 07941136685 or Helen.stainsby33@gmail.com and a list can then be compiled.

## Village Hall Diary - February

# Please note that this diary may not include all Village Hall events for February.

These events may be subject to change or cancellation. Please check the online calendar for up to date information http://www.thevillagehallstillington.org/calendar.asp You can book the Village Hall through the contact form on our website. Alternatively Text, or WhatsApp, 07726421287

## **Stillington and Farlington WI**

On Wednesday 11th January Stillington and Farlington WI met at Stillington Village Hall. We should have had a talk about healthy nutrition in winter, but at very short notice, our speaker had to postpone due to family illness.

Fortunately we had a Plan B and Mary stepped up and showed us an introduction to crochet. She brought wool and hooks and patiently guided us through the basic techniques. We made chains then progressed to Double Crochet and Trebles. Like knitting, the first couple of rows are the hardest but we all soon got the knack.

Some of us moved on to squares which oddly enough start as circles! These are trickier as tension becomes important, I think it needs more practice, I definitely do!

Thank you Mary for your patience and your skill.

On Wednesday 8th February we will hear from Andrea Wood about Nutrition in Winter. We will be starting at 7:30pm which is later than our recent meetings.

All visitors are welcome, £4 each including refreshments.

## Stillington Parish Council - January

The Council meeting was on Wednesday 4th January 2023 in the Village Hall with Cllrs Tim Drew (Chairman), Christine Cookman, Tracy Sinclair, Richard Smyth & Robert Churton together with 2 members of the public. **Public Session** 

Matters discussed were the need for a defibrillator at the village hall end of the village and the need for a volunteer list following an incident on Boxing Day.

#### Vehicle Activated Speed Signs

One quote has been received from an approved company. Two further quotes are still awaited.

## Policies

Twenty new draft policies will now be circulated. These will be on the next Council agenda.

## The Old Bus Shelter

Replies have been received and a decision will be made at the February meeting.

#### **Pavement Parking**

Clarification has been received regarding pavement parking causing an obstruction. Anyone seeing this should report it to the Police directly. Regarding a long term solution the parish council will refer to NYCC Highways. **Village Maintenance** 

An electrician had still not been found to repair the light in the bus shelter. The Clerk will find one this month.

The hedges in the Old Church Yard still required cutting and the contractor will be contacted again.

## Next Meeting

Wednesday 1st February 2023 in the Village Hall at 7pm. Agenda items to include: the grass cutting contracts, review of the policies, grass cutting tenders, communication with the Surgery Practice Manager, the old bus shelter consultation, dementia friendly village and the additional defibrillator.

The Clerk to the Parish Council: Nigel Knapton at clerk@stillingtonparishcouncil.uk



Your Village Defibrillator is kept in the Church Porch Available 24/7. A second Defibrillator is at the Sports and Social Club near the Squash Court entrance. No code needed.

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



**February Speaker** On Wednesday 22nd February our guest speaker will be Chris Pearson. His topic is "Shandy Hall and Gardens".

**AGM** The 2023 AGM will be held on Wednesday 26th April.

**2023 Plant Sale** This will be held on Monday 1st May. It will follow the very successful format of last year: plants on display outside Muriel Law's house and coffee and delicious scones in her garden.

**Dobies Seeds** It is not too late to send in your seed order form to Dobies. I will bring some to the next meeting.

**Growing vegetable seeds** Growing vegetables from seed can be satisfying. However, it is important to plan ahead so that you don't find that your hard work produces gluts and shortages.

**Spring is in sight** This month there are signs of the approaching spring, bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There's plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead. Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers, such as *Wisteria* as well as evergreen hedges.

**Top gardening jobs this month** Prepare vegetable seed beds, and sow some vegetables under cover

Knowing which vegetables to sow where, when and how means you can maintain constant supplies throughout the season.

Sow Vegetable seeds

Chit potato tubers

It's important with earlies, and a good idea with maincrops, to 'chit' the seed potatoes before planting. This means allowing them to start sprouting shoots.

Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines and peaches from frost. Most top fruit and soft fruit are very hardy but once they begin growing in spring, flowers and buds are especially vulnerable to frost and may need protection to crop well.

#### **Robert Churton**

#### **Stillington Wanderers**

19th December Thirsk walkers viewed the expensive ( $\pounds$ 226k) repair work to the footpath along the Cod Beck bankside; also Thirsk Hall's impressive five metre tall 'Cone' covered with brightly coloured knitted / crochet squares to resemble a Christmas Tree. The route continued past St James Church and west alongside the racecourse to Thirsk station; returning over the disused rail track towards Sowerby; Topcliffe airfield buildings in sight and then joining the Sowerby Gateway 1,000 houses' development en route to Sowerby Flatts open space; with Cod Beck still showing signs of the unfinished canal project to join the R. Swale.

Walking from Oulston village on 2nd January everyone had a clear view of RAF Menwith Hill before descending past Thornton Hill Farm, Thornton Lodges set around a fishing lake and returning via the Fosse Way. The wooden lodges style very much in contrast to the holiday homes being built into the hillside above Oulston. Members met a NYCC Footpaths volunteer tasked with identifying any blocked footpaths, missing or broken signs to report back to a Footpaths Officer.

A shorter walk on 16th January circumnavigated some of Easingwold's lanes & estates via Haverwits Farm, Claypenny and Millfields with the recent additions of outdoor exercise equipment, a friendship garden & bike tracks.

#### Weather Report - January 2023

**Rainfall** As reported last month, the first half of December was remarkably dry. There was an eleven-day spell with no recorded rainfall. However, the last week in particular made up for it and the final total, at 59.5mm, was close to the long-term average of 63mm.

The annual rainfall total was 605mm, the lowest since 2013.

So far, up to the 16th, January has given us 46mm, nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the monthly average.

**Temperature** December was a month of extremes in temperature. From the 8th until the 18th we experienced a protracted cold spell with hard frosts overnight and daytime temperatures scarcely above freezing. Then on the 19th there was a dramatic rise of ten degrees, which ushered in a mild spell lasting over Christmas.

January has been mild (12.7°C high and -0.7°C low up to the 16th), but a cold spell is now upon us, with heavy and persistent frosts.

Slightly more sunshine in December than in November. 100kWh from the solar panels.

MT

## **Stillington Sports & Social Club**

Stillington Squash Club is located at the Sports and Social Club and welcomes new members of any standard. It's not just squash that is played at the club either; there's a table tennis table and a developing racketball section. Coaching nights are Wednesdays between 7-8pm for juniors, beginners and intermediates. For those a little more advanced, there's another session from 8-9pm. There are mini-leagues to encourage members to play and get to know one another better as well as social sessions and club handicap tournaments, for those who like a little competition. If you'd like to get into something new in 2023, why not arrange a tour of the club and a taster session? New members will receive a free club shirt and we may be able to support you with equipment too - while stocks last.

For more information visit **www.stillingtonsquash.club** or email **info@stillingtonsquash.club** We look forward to welcoming you to our club.



## General Knowledge Quiz at the Sports and Social Club

January quiz raised £350 for the Bowling Club towards their green maintenance. Well done to the winning Turvey family team: Michael, son David, son-in-law Alistair and grandson, Jacob Gray. Friday 3rd February quiz will start the fund raising for the Coronation celebrations in May.

## **Countryside Notes**

Tuesday 17th January, a bright day after a very hard frost, ice over half an inch thick and I guess the keenest frost we have had for a number of years. Yesterday, the sheep were eating ravenously, a sure sign that hard weather is not far away. I call it "packing" when appetites are like this, it's natural for them to fill their bellies while food is available. Tomorrow, it may well be under deep snow. A good shepherd will see the oncoming signs and make provision. Nature is not daft, that is how it has evolved. The sheep troughs are good places to see birds coming in to feed when they get hungry. However, we do not get the numbers that we once did, sadly!

We have had some light purple bird droppings in the sheep troughs lately. This tells me that some birds are feeding on the black round berries of Ivy, the juice of which is the colourant in the droppings. Ivy is a rather strange creeper that is very common. It flowers after others have finished, which the bees really enjoy for nectar to help them through winter days and to sleep when temperatures are low. The berries are rather late in ripening consequently and make welcome nutritious food for the hungry months. Poison Ivy was drilled into me as a boy, so I have never nibbled it. However, old shepherds would seek out ivy foliage to feed to a sheep that had stopped eating, to stimulate appetite. I believe that the late King George VI spent a lot of time cutting ivy off trees at Sandringham, for the ivy does trees no favours when they climb them. They are not parasitic; however, they rob a tree of light and a dense mat of branches entwined round restricts sunshine on the tree's bark. They restrict the branch that they cling to and also compete for moisture absorbed by foliage and by consuming rainfall through its often-dense mat of roots that is only shallowly under the surface of the ground beneath the tree. So, the resident tree has to root deeper or extend further out. We have an Oak tree of a fair age that looked like being killed by the heavy load of ivy it carried. Then we cut the ivy a foot off the ground about ten years ago and the tree is now in fine health again. The Holly Blue Butterfly will have to seek fresh ivy to lay its second brood on after using Holly for the first brood.

On the 6th of January, I gathered a few single Snowdrops, the first of the season and next day some well forward Hazel Catkins, that are now dusting the sideboard with yellow pollen. Over recent days there has been a fine pair of colourful Bullfinches around the farm. Autumn brought a few Long-Tailed Tits to the bird feeders, but now they are back and welcome, along with a Greater Spotted Woodpecker. The only unwelcome visitor is a mole on the lawn who is making a real mess, even though the fine dug soil is being used to plant Allium bulbs into pots. The mole, or moles, have been busy today; I guess the frost is making the worms dig deeper and so our black furry friend is having to dig deeper too.

Yesterday, I heard English or Grey Partridges calling loudly, for this is the time the old birds shoo young ones away to make their own family groups. The number of these Greys has decreased in recent years, partly due to the different crop rotation on our farms, and their relatives, the Red-Legged Partridges, who are not very compatible with them, disturbing them in nesting time. The Greys like a bit of peace and quiet, like many of us.

Though winter is still very much in evidence, there is still much to see and look forward to, so enjoy the moment even though fingers may be numb with cold.

R & M



Original lino print by Emma Johnson

Your editors are: Emma Johnson & Tracy Sinclair. If you would like to contact us please do so using the Stillington News email. If you would like to make a donation to the Stillington News you can do so either by BACS: Stillington News;

Account no: 41651089; Sort code: 09 01 54 or sending cheques to

1 Chantry Gardens, Stillington, YO61 1NF

#### CHURCH SERVICES - February St Nicholas, Stillington

St Nicholas, Stil	lington
Priest:	
Rev Stephen Whitir	ng <b>810251</b>
benefic	ce.admin@gmail.com
Lay Minister:	
Margaret Price	811262
pri	cehm870@gmail.com
Church Wardens:	
Janet Martin	822981
jess	ie.jm158@gmail.com
Richard Mapletoft	811854
rma	pletoft@outlook.com
<b>Canon Emeritus:</b>	
Robert Law	810940
	lrf43@kesonline.org

Sun 5thMorning Worship10amSun 12thNo service at St Nicholas'<br/>Matins - Farlington10amHoly Communion - Sheriff Hutton10amSun 19thHoly Communion10amWeds 22ndAshWednesdayWeds 22ndAshWednesdayCommunion with optional ashing.For allthe villages in the Forest of Galtres7pmSun 26thMorning Worship10am

**Visiting the church** The church is open every day.

**Prayers for the village** every **Thursday at 9am.** If you would like to join us or if you would like prayers said for anyone or anything please contact Margaret Price. **Holy Communion at home** If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home

please contact Margaret Price to arrange a convenient time.

### **St Nicholas Church Rota**

30th January to 11th February CLEANING Mrs M. Law BRASSES Vacant 13th February to 25th February CLEANING Mrs M. Price BRASSES Mr M. Turvey

## 200 Club Results

1st Mr Parkhouse - 50 2nd Mr G Fulford 3rd Mrs R Bresnen Drawn by "Our Ernie"

## **Flower Rota**

5th February - Mrs J Ingham 12th February - Mrs B Milburn 19th February - Mrs B Milburn 26th February - 7th April LENT

## Eco Top Tips from St Nicholas' Church

Every month the Eco-Working Group at St Nicholas' Church gives a few handy tips for every household to understand and control their carbon emissions, as an act of love for Christ's creation and our fellow human beings. For February, then: **February - be informed, slow down and talk** 

- 1. Find out how to reduce your carbon footprint: go to BBC Sounds and search *New Year's Solutions*.
- 2. Slow down and relax on journeys: drive at 60mph on the motorway and 50mph on main roads and save 10% on fuel and CO2e emissions.
- 3. Talk to a friend or family member this week about your concerns about an environmental issue. Listen to what they think. Share one thing you have done or want to do to try to bring the good news for all creation.

## St Leonard's, Farlington

111050.	
Revd Stephen Whiting	810251
benefice.admin@gmail.com	
Church Wardens:	
Sally Wright	878745
Richard Haste	878581
richardhasta@htir	tornot com

richardhaste@btinternet.com The well-attended celebrations of Christmas and Plough Sunday are now just happy memories. This month sees the start of the 40 day solemn period of Lent which starts on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd.

Sun 12thShortened Matins10.30amSun 26thHoly Communion10.30am

St Leonard's follows the tradition of the Book of Common Prayer and you are assured of a warm welcome at any of our services.

#### St Mary's Marton Church Contact:

Caroline Hunt878242<br/>martonintheforest@gmail.comSue Whiting810251Whatever the weather, we always try to<br/>provide a warm welcome at Marton<br/>Church! Our services are currently at<br/>3pm (to avoid driving in the dark)

Sun 12thCeltic Worship3pmSun 26thCeltic Communion3pm

We are currently in the process of applying for an Eco Church Award. Please contact **Caroline (878242 or martonintheforest@gmail.com)** if you would be willing to complete a short anonymous questionnaire about environmental issues and lifestyle choices. All responses will be collated in February and will hopefully inspire and encourage us all!

## **Methodist Chapel**

Minister:		
Rev David Bidnell 0190	4 345429	
david.bidnell@gi	mail.com	
Steward:		
Robin Jackson	810250	
robinjacksonwoodside@gmail.com		
Villages Working Together		
Sun 6th Huby	10.20	
Sun our muby	10.30am	
Café Services - Rev Ruth Duck	10.30am	
<sup>1</sup>	10.30am 3pm	
Café Services - Rev Ruth Duck		
Café Services - Rev Ruth Duck Sun 12th Alne Hall		
Café Services - Rev Ruth Duck Sun 12th Alne Hall Led by Mrs Marion Moverley	3pm 10.30am	
Café Services - Rev Ruth Duck Sun 12th Alne Hall Led by Mrs Marion Moverley Sun 19th Stillington	3pm 10.30am	



