

Stillington News



Issue 365

email: news@stillingtonvillage.org

June 2025

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 and a third is on the front wall of the Village Hall. No Code needed. Remember: Call an Ambulance, start CPR, get the Defibrillator - it will tell you what to do.

Stillington celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE day over 4th / 5th May Bank Holiday weekend and it was good to see many homes decorated with flags and bunting. **The Church Celebration Service** was led by Margaret Price with Richard Mapletoft; Organist Les Bresnen; and the church decorated by Gelda & Robert Churton & team.

Church bells were rung at 12 noon on Monday 5 May by Harold Tomlinson, John Clark and Peter Coomer. Nearly 80 people join in the **DIY lunch** at the Sports and Social Club with tubs of ice cream provided by the Shop. Tim and Bridget Adams led the **Children's Sports** with Archery proving a 'winner' to finish. VE 80 medals were given to all participants. Tricia Walker compered the **Fun Dog Show** and Karen Smith gamely took on the role of judge. Nine classes included Handsome Hound, Prettiest Bitch, Best Rescue, Child's Best Friend and Cutest Puppy. Andrew with his collie, Barney, was the overall 'Star' of the Show with Best Tricks. Toft's Animal Supplies kindly donated a treat for every dog.

Thank you to everyone who helped plan, organise and deliver on the day.

Children's Play Area - The Play Area has had a real good face lift with the help of a team of weed pullers and kind donation of local woodchip from Sam, The Tree Fella and the 'wheel barrowers and rakers' who helped spread.

THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF ST MONICA'S HOSPITAL, EASINGWOLD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

-Notice is hereby given of the **Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 12th June 2025 at 7.00pm at the Galtres Centre, Easingwold**. This year we are delighted to welcome Dr Will Robertson and Rosie O'Connell from South Hambleton and Ryedale Primary Care Network (SHaR PCN) who will give an update of their work in our area. This will include an update about the new Health and Wellbeing Service, led by Dr John Morris GP and funded by FOSMH. Members of the public are very welcome to attend. Whilst not a requirement, we do encourage members of the public to become FOSMH Members. You can register via our website, or by completing a registration form on arrival at the AGM. Only adults who are registered patients at Ampleforth, Easingwold (Millfield), Hovingham, Stillington and Tollerton NHS GP Surgeries can become FOSMH Members. Only FOSMH members can vote. Votes by proxy are not permitted. For further details contact the Honorary Secretary, Angela Bussey, by email at friends@fosmh.org.uk. **Registered Charity no. 1197052**

Please email contributions for the July 2025 issue to news@stillingtonvillage.org by FRIDAY 20th June 2025. Submissions received after this date may not be included! If you would like to donate 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. We operate on a budgetary constraint so any new donations would be gratefully received. **Thank you to the voluntary donators who have generously supported recently.**

Stillington Post Office & Stores (Stillington Community Association Ltd)

- Applications are invited for grants. SCA Ltd is again intending to make grants to village organisations and businesses. Benefit to the community will be the first criterion in assessing applications, although other factors will be considered. Grants will normally be awarded for a specific project, rather than to support on-going running costs. **For an application form, please email - j_a_dalton@hotmail.co.uk or write to the Secretary, SCA Ltd, Main Street, Stillington, York, YO61 1JS; alternatively collect a form from the Post Office & Store. Completed forms must be received by 5.30pm, Friday 27th June 2025**

Tuesday Pop In

Every Tuesday morning from 10.30am until 12 noon the Village Hall doors are open to welcome everyone for refreshments and a selection of snacks to enjoy. We offer a warm welcome to everyone as the conversations and laughter flow easily round the room meeting up with friends and making new ones; maybe sharing some of your own memories about the end of the war and what life was like then and perhaps reminded by television broadcasts and very powerful stories and memories. So do come and join us and perhaps enjoy one of Bernie's lovely hot chocolates! We look forward to welcoming you all, from the Pop In Team



Stillington Surgery Prescription Advice

The Surgery guideline for prescription orders is to request repeat prescriptions five working days in advance of when they are needed. Recently, prescription medicines have often been available in advance of the guideline. However, due to a combination of long-term illness, holidays and difficulty obtaining trained temporary staff to cover, for the next few months, it is likely that dispensing some prescriptions will take the full five working days. **Please support our Surgery staff and avoid your own inconvenience by getting your prescription requests in well in advance.**

Stillington Mill Bridge had only recently been repaired from a large vehicle knock, when a further traffic incident caused a full bridge wall collapse on the other side, also damage to the Mill's Garden wall, with the car driver continuing at speed. Well done to the quick-thinking walker nearby who, with help, alerted traffic authorities to eventually stop the driver on the outskirts of York.

Stillington Crafty Ninjas



Keep an eye out for the next Post Box topper.....it tells a story.

200 Club Results

1st - Mrs L Chamberlain, 2nd - Mr C Torlesse, 3rd - Mrs D Charlesworth

Drawn by "Our Ernie"

Stillington Wanderers



Becoming very dry underfoot and more spring sunshine: 21st April walk was via Cornborough Manor crossing the artificial racetrack to Farlington and then north to Whenby, passing the new Bull Farm buildings on the return; the days have gone of seeing tethered bulls out in the fields. An Easingwold circuit and shorter walk for Bank Holiday 4th May included some of the town's snickleways. **Next walks: Monday 2nd and 16th June 2025.**

Meet outside the White Bear at 9.30am

Village Pond Update

There have been various comments made about the work on the Village Pond on the village Facebook page. Information about the work has been reported in the Parish Council Minutes and the Stillington Newsletter. Some history and an update on the work might be useful to readers.

The pond was last fully dredged in 1991. Following a survey and report in 2020, volunteers manually raked out accumulated leaf debris and organic matter in both Sept 2020 and 2022 with limited success. Dredging was then planned late summer 2023 but thwarted by high rainfall and similarly in 2024. Following recommendations of the report, overhanging tree branches have been cut back to reduce leaf litter and allow more light on the water; it also advised the number of wild fowl should be managed to minimise waste from their droppings. The pond is fed by water run-off and piped from the road and one drain from a neighbour's land; there is no spring; there do seem to be leaks as the water level soon drops in dry weather. The timing for dredging this year was not ideal, work needed to be done, and the cost was escalating each year. The pond water was stagnant and lacked any pond life. This was confirmed when the pond water was removed. The material was deposited to the rear of the pond and away from any water course. A total of around 170 tons was removed. During this time care was taken over the geese and the other wildlife. They were fed and watered on a daily basis and they all stayed around the pond in spite of the machinery. The island was removed and has been rebuilt with new stone. Some of the yellow flag iris plants have been replanted and the surrounding area will be tidied, grassed and woodland wildflowers will be sown.

By the time you read this, more water should have been delivered, and the pond should be returning to normal with long-expected rainfall.

Thank you to all those living near the pond for putting up with the noise and any disruption.

Eco 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.

June – Holiday highlights

1. Going for a day out to the beach? Take an extra bag and pick up any litter you see.
2. Planning your day out or holiday journey? Use public transport if you can reduce your carbon emissions. Travelling by train or ferry to Europe can be part of the adventure.
3. If you are planning to fly for your holiday, make sure you offset the carbon you generate from your flight, eg. with Climate Stewards www.climatestewards.org.

Children's Play Area

The Play Area has had a really good facelift with the help of a team of weed pullers and kind donation of local woodchip from Sam, The Tree Fella and the wheel barrowers and rakers who helped.



Are there more wildflowers in our spare churchyard this year?

At St Nicholas' Church we are trying to increase the number and variety of wildflowers in the 'spare' churchyard. This is the field to the east of the churchyard on North Back Lane. It is consecrated land that will, in a few years' time, be used for burials. So meanwhile, we are trying to create a flower meadow for all of us to enjoy and encourage butterflies, insects, birds etc. We are encouraging more wildflowers naturally by only cutting the field once a year in August, once the flowers have set their seeds. We then remove the cuttings, as surprisingly wildflowers grow best where the land is poor. We have also been sowing wildflower seeds and planting young plants that we have grown, such as red campion, oxeye daisy and yellow rattle (thanks to Liz Cole). But what progress are we making? In June each year we have been surveying the plants and wildlife in the field. **Come and help us survey the field on Saturday 7th June 10.00am to 12 noon. Meet at the field, wear suitable clothing and stout footwear. We will give you help to identify the plants, butterflies etc. Children must be accompanied by an adult.** Thank you for your help in advance. More information Margaret Price 01347 811262



Stillington Parish Council

The Council meeting was on Wednesday 7th April 2025 in the Village Hall with Cllrs Richard Smyth (Chairman), Tracy Sinclair, Christine Cookman, Graham Taylor, Robert Churton and John Pollock together with 4 members of the public. The Council were pleased to co-opt Cllr John Pollock on to the Council. One vacancy still remains; an expression of interest was given by a member of the public at the meeting. This would be followed up at the next meeting.

Election of Chairman - Cllr Smyth was elected as Chairman for the coming year.

Election of Vice-Chairman - Cllr Sinclair was elected as Vice-Chairman for the coming year.

Public Session - Matters raised were the pond, boundary commission and the pot holes on South Back Lane.

North Yorkshire Councillor's Report - Cllr Taylor had reported that had reported that the boundary review was recommending Stillington be moved out of the current division into Hillside division for the next elections.

Memorial Plaque - A memorial plaque had been fitted to the old bus shelter to explain its historical significance.

Village Pond - The work to the pond was nearly completed. 170 tonnes of slurry had been removed. The fencing would be made geese-proof. Grass seed will be planted on the removed slurry. Foxes had raided the moor hen's nest. Duck eggs had been found and were in an incubator and the ducklings would be returned to the pond. A lifebuoy is required. A letter from a resident had been received regarding the process and this would be replied to.

VE Celebrations - The VE day celebrations held on Monday 5th May 2025 had been a great success.

Next Meeting - Will be held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

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

Countryside Notes

Thursday 15th May

A cloudy day with a cool wind blowing for most of it. Thankfully, no rain is forecast for at least a week. The land is parched from the drying winds and strong sunshine, which has slowed spring growth—nettles in the fields are only half their usual height. Still, the lambs enjoy their evening races, kicking up clouds of dust. I wish I had their energy! We've been watching a pair of Blackbirds nesting. They successfully hatched chicks, but sadly, something found the nest and destroyed the young. The parents, undeterred, are building again. Magpies, Carrion Crows, and Jackdaws are everywhere, always hungry. Worst are the crows, which will attack a weak lamb—taking its eyes and tongue—leaving us with a grim task. On a brighter note, the Swallows are back, though later than usual, no doubt trying to make up time before they return to Africa. The lawn by the house is alive with birds hunting insects. Pied Wagtails (one tailless, sadly), a beautiful pair of Goldfinches—always a favourite with their red faces and golden wings—and other small visitors. Long ago, cottagers caged Goldfinches, but now they grace our gardens freely. In the back field, we've seen non-breeding Green Plovers (Peewits), but the real treat is a pair of Oystercatchers. Their black-and-white plumage and orange beaks are striking. One morning, the male performed a lovely courtship dance—trembling wing feathers and graceful flight—accompanied by their distinctive piping call. Last Sunday, near Newburgh Pond, we spotted a group of male Goosanders diving for fish. It made me wonder if, like Eider drakes, they leave the parenting to the females. The roadside verges are a delight. Though the Dandelions have passed their peak, Cow Parsley (Queen Anne's Lace), Red Campion, and others brighten the hedgerows. Spring butterflies are out in force: Brimstones with their sulphur yellow, along with Holly Blues, Orange Tips, Commas, and Tortoiseshells. After a run of poor summers, we're hopeful for a better season for the summer butterflies. Take the time to notice these small wonders and enjoy all that nature offers.

R & M



SGC Newsletter June 2025



Plant Sale 2025 - The Bring and Buy Plant Sale was held this year in the Village Hall this year with the plants being displayed inside on eight tables. The quality of plants was very high this year, so a big thank you to all those who brought plants and to those who bought them. The coffee and cream scones were again very popular, with all 6 tables full most of the time! Takings on plants and coffee were similar to last year which is very good and many Members collected their new programmes while paying their membership subscriptions. We started at 10am and we left the Hall looking very tidy at 12 noon. Well done and many thanks to all the Committee and those who helped. **The AGM** - This took place on Wednesday 30th April. The Chairman, Officers and Secretary all gave their reports to the meeting. These were accepted. As the finances of the Club are in a good position it was agreed that the subscriptions would remain at £7 for a single person and £10 for a household. The election of the officers and committee members was discussed and agreed. There is one vacancy on the committee still open which can be filled during the year. Following the AGM, June Tainsh gave a very good talk on Helmsley Walled Garden. **Visit to Vertigrow** - Caroline Proctor arranged a very successful trip to Vertigrow on Tuesday 13th May. After a short Cheese and Wine reception the owner, Andrew, gave us an excellent tour of the Garden Centre showing us behind the scenes. It was a very interesting evening.

Annual Flower Show - Sunday 10th August. Plans are well ahead for this year's show. Sarah Raper has prepared this year's schedule, with one or two alterations from last year. The schedules for the show will be available in the Village Shop in June. If you would like an early copy, please ask Sarah or Gelda.

Gardening Tips for June - Position summer hanging baskets and containers outside, choosing vibrant bedding plants for a short-term show or herbs, shrubs and evergreens for a long-lasting display.

Be water-wise, especially in drought-affected areas.

Pinch outside shoots on tomatoes.

St Nicholas' Church Services

Worship in Church in June

Sunday 1st June 10.00am. Morning Worship

Sunday 8th June 10.00am. Pentecost Holy Communion, a very special day in the Church's year, come and see why!

Sunday 15th June 10.00am - Holy Communion.

Sunday 22nd June 10.00am Morning Worship.

Sunday 29th June 4.00pm Ecumenical service. People from all denominations are welcome, come and share in the refreshments offered.

Visiting the Church - The church is open every day, from 9.00am (or earlier) until 4.00pm. **Prayers for the village** - These take place 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 (01347 811262; pricehm870@gmail.com) or leave a note in the side chapel of St Nicholas. **Holy Communion at home** - Would you like to receive Holy Communion at home? If you are not able to come to Church on Sunday mornings, would you like a visit at home? Do make a phone call to arrange a convenient time. Margaret Price 01347 811262.

St Nicholas' Church Cleaning Rota -

2nd to 14th June - Mrs J Ingham (cleaning), Mr R Churton (Brasses)

16th to 28th June Mrs P Clark (cleaning), Mr J Clark (Brasses)

St Nicholas' Church Flower Rota

Sunday's 1st and 8th June - Mrs P Drew

Sunday's 15th and 22nd June - Mrs E Morse

Sunday 29th June - Mrs J Martin

St Leonard's, Farlington

The sun shone, the churchyard was firm under foot and a splendid number of people came to St Leonard's to join in the ancient celebration of Rogationtide. This festival is one of the farming related events in the church calendar and is an occasion of thanks and blessing for the work of farmers, their livestock and their crops – very appropriate in rural Farlington. Traditionally, Rogationtide is followed by three days of fasting, but not at St Leonard's. Ours was followed by an abundance of sandwiches, cakes and scones. It was lovely to see so many people and the orphaned lambs in their pen enjoyed having so much attention.

Services in June - Halfway through the year! Our services this month:

- **Sunday 8th 10.30am** Shortened Matins (BCP) for Pentecost
- **Sunday 22nd 10.30am** Holy Communion (BCP)

We hope you will be able to join us for one or both services. The Church is open daily for private prayer; the peaceful Churchyard is always open.

Villages Together - Now the Methodist Church is closed, we are part of Villages Together Methodist Church, worshipping in several places. Our Minister is at present Rev John Hayward 07864 658342, john.hayward@methodist.org.uk

Stillington contact Robin Jackson Tel 01347 810250

Villages Together Methodist Church Services for June

1st June - Rev Andy Foster 8.00am at Huby Methodist Church

8th June - Robin Jackson 3.00pm at Alne Hall

15th June - Café Service 10.30am at Huby Methodist Church

22nd June - Rev John Hayward at Tholthorpe Methodist Church

29th June - Alne Hall 3.00pm Rev Elizabeth Cushion

Here at Stillington, there will be an Ecumenical Service led by Richard Maplecroft and Robin Jackson; we will worship together at St Nicholas.

The days are lengthening and soon it will be midsummer. The passage from spring to summer is a reminder to us all of the ever-changing nature of life. As the writer of Ecclesiastes wrote "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven". The seasons follow a cycle but are never the same. Many of us will face the challenges of change in our own lives. Perhaps a change of job, a marriage, a divorce, retirement or change of health. Change is not easy. It can be exhausting, frightening and disorientating. It can also be exhilarating, liberating and focusing, but not easy. Amidst the challenge and uncertainty there is one constant, God. One of my favourite prayers in the Methodist Worship Book describes the Church as being a pilgrim people. This paints a mental picture of a people who are always on the move, seeking out where God is working and joining in. The prayer continues: You are our God, ahead of us, leading, guiding us and calling us; you are the Lord God, the all-wise, the all-compassionate. Every blessing to you all,
Reverend John Haywood, the York Methodist Circuit.