

Stillington News

Issue 364

email: news@stillingtonvillage.org

May 2025

Please make note of the following Village events over the Early May Bank Holiday weekend. This is an opportunity for everyone to join in, young & old.



Village Celebrations for VE Day 80th Anniversary

- 1. Thursday/Friday May 1st/2nd - Decorations go up – Homes, village features, the Church, Stillington Sports and Social Club.**
- 2. Sunday May 4th @10am – Celebratory VE day 80 Church Service – St Nicholas Church**
- 3. Monday May 5th @ 12 noon – Church Bells will ring**
- 4. Monday May 5th @ 12.30pm DIY Village Lunch at Stillington Sports and Social Club
(Bring your own food, plates, cutlery etc. Free tub of Ice cream provided)
THE BAR WILL BE OPEN AT SSSC.**
- 5. Monday May 5th @ 2.30pm Children's Sports at Stillington Sports and Social Club**
- 6. Monday May 5th @ 3.45pm Fun Dog Show, £1 per entry per class, at SSSC
PLEASE NOTE ALL DOGS TO BE ON LEADS!**

PLANT SALE 2025. Monday 5th May - 10 am to 11.30am



“COFFEE MORNING and BRING & BUY Plant Sale”. It will take place on the grass and in the Village Hall. Everyone in the Village is invited to the Bring and Buy Plant Sale and to enjoy refreshments and delicious home-made scones.

Village Hall – thevillagehallstillington.org

Heart & Craft sessions continue at the Village Hall on **alternate Thursday afternoons from 2 – 4pm.**

Rural Arts obtained funding for these activities, with just a **£3 donation suggested towards hall hire. All equipment is provided. You are welcome to bring your own refreshments.**

This month's sessions are:

1st May Neurographic Design with Marzanna

15th May Ceramics with Natasha

29th May 2nd session with Natasha

Don't worry about whether you can do it or think that you have no talent in particular areas, we have all been pleasantly surprised by some of our efforts (although I have been known to bin mine occasionally before leaving the building!).

Boccia and Kurling - take place **every Friday afternoon from 1 – 3pm at the Village Hall**, open to anyone. This is a seated exercise and social group. We are wheelchair- and disability-friendly, with carers attending free as required. Sadly, not many locals take advantage of this facility, whilst others travel in – some from far away – to take part. You are very welcome just to call in and give us a try. Sessions each last about 45 minutes with a refreshment break from 1.45 until 2.15pm. We are still lucky enough to have Joe McKechnie from North Yorkshire Council running these sessions, so only request a £4 donation to cover hall hire.



Stillington Village Hall
AGM
Wednesday 28th May at 7.00pm
Everyone welcome

Thank you - Early March I put out an appeal to the village. Anyone who gets an **ALWAYS** voucher that doesn't need it, could you hand it into the Post Office. My plan was to donate them to the Food Bank. I collected them and exchanged them for various products. **The village has excelled itself. This year I got 144 vouchers, yes 144!!** Thank you particularly to Clare Ryan and she passed on many, many vouchers. Firstly, I donated to a Hostel in York that has 20 Ladies, some with babies. Secondly, I donated to Howe Hill a young person's home near York. Thirdly I donated to the Easingwold and surrounding villages, Food Bank. Fourthly was also able to donate to St. Nicholas Church Food Bank which is part of the Trussell Trust. **If any vouchers are posted through your door for Always products, please hand them in at the Post Office and they will get to me.** Thank you so much. Very proud of this community, **Shirley McDonald**

Village Poem

Here is a poem about our lovely village that was written by the group (write a line and pass it on!) at a recent session which was led by local published poet, Olivia Mulligan, who gave the group the title of the poem:

Sleepy Stillington

*I've never witnessed a sleepy
Stillington*

*Maybe it's something that will
happen one day*

*Calm on the surface with hidden
undercurrents.*

*Invisible connections weave
through the streets*

*Like veins beneath the skin that
pulse with life.*

*I've never witnessed a sleepy
Stillington*

*From Christmas to royal
occasions, they are all celebrated.*

*They're not sleepy in the White
Bear on a Friday night*

They're singing...loudly!

Filled with fun, friendship and life.

Thank you!

A **BIG thank you** to the person who handed my purse in to the village Post Office on Friday 4th April. I'm very grateful and it is nice to know there are still some honest people around. **Thanks again, M Taylor**

Yorkshire GREEN project (ref. many local road signs)

This involves the upgrade and reinforcement of the high-voltage electricity network in Yorkshire. This will allow more green energy to get from where it's generated to where it's needed in Yorkshire and further afield. See Yorkshire GREEN newsletter yorkshiregreen@nationalgrid.com for local updates for Overton and Shipton including construction of new pylons and local road/lane closures.

Please email contributions for the June 2025 issue to news@stillingtonvillage.org by FRIDAY 16TH MAY 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.

Stillington Wanderers - Glorious Spring weather for both walks. **24th March** from Coneysthorpe village with Castle Howard and monument views throughout the walk: SE to Bog Hall, E to Spring Wood and climb to Park House; W along Coneysthorpe Banks and back via Centenary Way. Robert Spruce, a distinguished botanist (collecting for Kew Gardens) and explorer lived in Coneysthorpe from 1876 to 1893.

7th April route from Windy Gap, Yearsley, went W along Rutter Plantation to High Lions and Low Lions with panoramic views of the Ampleforth valley; E to Park Wood, along the shoreline of Lower Fish Pond and the Higher Fish Ponds which are becoming very overgrown. **Next walks: Bank Holiday Monday 5th May (short walk) and 19th May 2025. Meet outside the White Bear at 9.30am.**

Stillington Parish Council

The Council meeting was on Wednesday 2nd April 2025 in the Village Hall with Cllrs Christine Cookman, Graham Taylor, Robert Churton and Richard Smyth (Chairman) together with 2 members of the public.

The Council noted the resignation of Cllr Tim Drew and the contribution he had made to the Council including his time as Chairman.

Public Session - A matter raised was the rat infestation, potholes and parking on the village green.

North Yorkshire Councillor's Report - Cllr Taylor had reported that the rat infestation on South Back Lane was under investigation.

Vehicle Activated Speed Signs - A volunteer to look after the VAS signs had still not been found. If anyone is interested in taking on this role, please contact the Clerk.

Dog Waste Bin - It was agreed that an additional dog waste bin on Mill Lane was not required.

Casual Vacancy - A casual vacancy had arisen on the Council and a co-option would now be made. Anyone interested please email the Clerk. It was likely another vacancy would soon be available.

Marton Abbey bridge - The bridge had been repaired following representations from the Parish Council.

Neighbourhood Watch - The four new Neighbourhood Watch signs had been purchased and would be erected soon.

VE Celebrations - It was agreed to make available up to £350 for VE day celebration events.

Next Meeting - Would be held on Wednesday 7th May 2025 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. It was agreed that meetings would now be held every other month.

The meeting closed at 8.09pm. **The Clerk to the Parish Council: Nigel Knapton - clerk@stillingtonparishcouncil.uk**

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, for our fellow human beings.

May – In the utility room

1. When using a washing machine ensure there is a full load and turn down the temperature. Heating the water to higher temperatures uses more energy.
2. Electric tumble dryers use energy. If it's a nice day dry your clothes outside. In winter most drying is done by the wind, so check the forecast for windy days and nights as you can hang washing overnight because there is no dew in the winter.
3. Cut up old clothes or sheets that you were going to throw out, to use as cloths for cleaning jobs rather than buying new cloths.



200 Club Results

1st Miss S Cooper, **2nd** R.U, Mrs K Midgeley, **3rd** Mr G Price

Stillington Playing Fields Association

Charity No. 1071665, **AGM 18th March 2025**

The playing fields, playground and woodland are vested in the above charity with the S&SC buildings leased from the Playing Fields. Income is raised from the sporting section membership and fundraising. Marton Football have withdrawn as a section and now pay for each game. Thank you to volunteers for the repairs and maintenance on the playground. It is hoped the playground will be improved and extended with future building development in the Parish e.g the second phase of housing off South Back Lane which has been delayed with establishing the North Yorkshire unitary authority.

Election of officers for 2025/26: Angela Shipley, Chair: Jordan Dobson; Secretary: Christine Cookman, Treasurer.

Stillington Sports and Social Club

AGM 18th March 2025

Harold Tomlinson, with fellow officers and volunteers, has overseen a transformation of the bar and games room over the past two years; maintenance, repairs and improvements continue again helped by many volunteers. Local companies are now helping with a roof repair, gents' toilets and showers. Sky TV was introduced; a new Pool table in addition to the existing has enabled the Club to host Pool matches and the revamped Snooker table is demand. Rich Coultas took on the Grounds Maintenance role and Darren Teale the Bar Licensee, assisted by Carina Wade. You don't have to be a Sports' Club member to enjoy the bar and facilities, which are open to ALL. However, a new Social Membership has been agreed to show support to the S&SC and giving members eligibility to vote at AGMs. **Election of officers:** it was all change with Harold Tomlinson, Jordan Dobson and Angela Shipley retiring as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. **Christine Cookman, Carina Wade and James Ratcliff were elected for 2025/26.**

St Nicholas Flower Rota for May 2025

- **Sunday 4th May VE Day decorations. ALL HELP on Thursday 1st May 10am**
- **Sunday 11th May** - Mrs M Price
- **Sunday 18th May** - Mrs P Clark
- **Sunday 25th May** - Mrs P Clark
- **Sunday 1st June** - Mrs P Drew



Tuesday Pop In - We open every Tuesday morning to welcome everyone from 10.30 - 12 noon at the Village Hall. We offer tasty drinks and snacks to enjoy with good, lively conversation and lots of laughter. Do come and join us and enjoy good company and friendship every week.

Stillington Gardening Club

Membership Programmes for 2025-2026 -

These will be available at the AGM and Plant Sale or by contacting the Membership Secretary, Gelda Churton. You will need your new card to get your discount at Castle Howard and Vertigrow Garden Centres. **Membership** - We are updating our membership details. Please contact Gelda if your email or contact telephone numbers have changed - please email - **churton234@btinternet.com**

Annual Show 2025 - This will take place on **Sunday, 10th August in the Village Hall.** Schedules will be available from the shop in May and at the Plant Sale.

May Tips for the Garden:

- Start planting out summer bedding towards the end of the month.
- 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.
- 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.

STILLINGTON CHARITY FOR RELIEF IN NEED

The Charity's AGM will take place on **Wednesday 7th May 7pm at Stillington Sports & Social Club.**

The meeting is open to all.

St Nicholas' Church, Stillington

Worship in Church in May

- **Sunday May 4th 10.00am.** VE Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration
- **Sunday May 11th 10.00am.** Morning Worship
- **Sunday May 18th 10.00am.** Holy Communion
- **Sunday May 25th 10.00am.** Morning Worship
- **Thursday May 29th 7.00pm.** Ascension Day Benefice Holy Communion **at Farlington Church** for surrounding villages

Visiting the church - The church is open every day, from nine or earlier until four. **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 a Sunday morning, would you like a visit at home? Do make a phone call to arrange a convenient time. Margaret Price 01347 811262.

St Leonard's, Farlington

Services at St Leonard's in May are:

- **Sunday 11th - 3.00pm** - Rogation Service at the church
- **Sunday 25th - 10.30am** - Holy Communion (BCP)
- **Thursday 29th - 7.00pm** - Ascension Day Holy Communion

St Leonard's follows the tradition of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). You are assured of a warm welcome at any of our services and events. The Church is open daily for private prayer; the peaceful Churchyard is always open.

Villages Together

Services for May

- **Sunday 4th 10-30am at Huby** Communion service Rev David Priestnall
- **Sunday 11th 3.00pm at Alne Hall** service led by Rev Ruth Duck
- **7.00pm at Byland Abbey Sunset Communion** Rev David Hayward
- **Sunday 18th 10.30am at Easingwold** 50th Anniversary Celebration
- **Sunday 25th 3pm at Tholthorpe** service led by Robin Jackson

St Mary's Church, Marton in the Forest.

We look forward to 2 services in May: A Celtic Holy Communion at 6pm on Sunday 4th May, and a Celtic Evening Service at 6pm on Sunday 18th May. We are sometimes asked what is different about a Celtic service. Most of our congregation go to their own village churches in the morning but come to Marton later in the day for something a bit different. Essentially our interpretation of Celtic worship (pronounced Keltick) is based on the models for worship from places like the Iona and Northumbrian communities, which many of us have visited. So, we come as we are, try to use accessible and straightforward language, find inspiration from nature, the Bible, and life stories, and include space for reflection on our own lives and faith journeys before we set out back into the everyday world again! We do enjoy our singing too and have a great group of musicians who help to bring our hymns to life. Many people tell us that they feel peace in the churchyard and in the church itself, so we describe it as a thin place - somewhere between earth and heaven where you can take refuge and feel safe. Maybe it's all those years of prayers that have seeped into the stones! So please don't be put off by the word Celtic. Whether you come to services or just like to come and spend a moment enjoying the church and views, everyone is very welcome in this place!

St Nicholas Church Cleaning rota - 5th May to 17th May – Mrs R Bresnen

VACANT

19th May to 31st May – Mrs W Walton

Mr & Mrs J Ratcliffe

Together in Remembrance and Hope

As spring blooms around us, May invites reflection. This month marks 80 years since VE Day—May 8, 1945—when the war in Europe ended. For many in our village, it's not just history, but memory. We honour the courage, sacrifice, and hope of that generation. VE Day reminds us not only of victory, but of the strength we find in each other through dark times. In today's uncertain world, its message still resonates: to root ourselves in faith, community, and hope. As Psalm 46 says, "*God is our refuge and strength, a constant help in times of trouble.*" We may not have easy answers, but we hold fast to timeless truths: love is stronger than hate, light shines in the darkness, and Christ walks with us always — through joy and through trial.

Here in our village, small acts of kindness matter deeply. A wave, a chat, a shared moment—these build the kind of community we're called to be. As a church, we aim to live out the peace VE Day represents welcoming the weary, supporting the vulnerable, and praying for peace. The church is more than a building—it's a place of welcome and rest. Whether you come often or haven't in years, the door is always open. In life's busyness, it can help to pause, light a candle, and sit in a space shaped by generations of prayer. This May let's give thanks—for peace, for community, and for the quiet thread of hope that carries us through. With every blessing, Rev Steve Whiting.

Christian Aid Week is **11th – 17th May 2025**, concentrating this year on the climate crisis in Guatemala and helping to fund essential agricultural training and tools, working alongside specialist training partner *Congcoop* to encourage farmers to plant resilient crops, conserve water and make fertiliser. **Donation envelopes will be delivered around the village during Christian Aid week and can be handed in at the Village Shop if you choose to contribute.** Many thanks in anticipation.



Countryside Notes – May 2025

15th April brought drizzle and the promise of rain, which would be very welcome. Everything needs a drink; it's been a while since a proper soaking. Grazed grass is being eaten down and, between drought and nightly frosts, growth has stalled. Still, spring crop sowing has gone well, and good progress is being made.

We began lambing at the weekend, as ever with mixed blessings. It's the great leveller—one day smooth, the next full of challenges. I've just come in from helping a ewe deliver a large lamb, legs back and head already out. My hand got trapped in the cervix when my grandson pulled the head the wrong way during a strong contraction—painful business. The lamb was born dead. Now the mother mourns, licking it clean, a part of her recovery. We lamb outdoors, close to nature's way, and over time it's proved better for flock and shepherd alike. Later lambing means better weather and grass to support it.

We're waiting for our first Swallow, though I hear one is in the area. A pair of Oyster Catchers is about—I love their striking black and white plumage and bold orange beaks. They seem to favour the local irrigation pools and return each year. The butterflies are making an early appearance in the midday sun—Commas, Small Tortoiseshells, Speckled Woods, Peacocks, Brimstones, and showy Orange Tips, the males flashing their colours while the females remain more subdued. A hopeful sign, though numbers have fallen after cold, wet summers—and yes, we farmers often bear the blame for following science to boost yields. But if the air is too cold for a butterfly's blood to flow, how can we expect it to thrive?

I've never seen our trees so heavy with flower. Catkins dangle like lambs' tails, especially on the Birch, its yellowy green tassels thick with golden pollen. Ash pollen is also high, prompting early warnings. Our Apricot tree has bloomed gloriously, though frost may yet rob us of its fruit—we shall see.

I've not even wandered the garden or verges to speak of the flowers, but they're there, in all their springtime glory, waiting for you to see and enjoy.

Stillington and District Community Archive

Wednesday 21st May 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Hiding in Plain Sight: The Story of the Humble Milestone - Hilary will look at how we find our way around, now and in the past. Exploring the development of Turnpike Roads, she will explain their importance for milestones and look at the variety of designs across the country. You will discover how The Milestone Society charity helps protect our roadside heritage with local examples from North Yorkshire featured. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions! **Biography** - Hilary is vice-chair of The Milestone Society, a charity that seeks to conserve our wayside heritage of milestones, boundary markers and traditional fingerposts. She has a professional background in Transport Planning and Highways but is now retired and lives in Wensleydale.



Stillington and Farlington WI

On Wednesday 9th April, Margaret, one of our members, made four very different arrangements of foliage and spring flowers. She used a variety of techniques to anchor the greenery and flowers, chicken wire, florists' tape, a heavy base with sharp spikes and different shaped containers all demonstrating the range of her craft.

Next month our meeting is only for members.

A big thank you to everyone who brought and bought books, plants and games at the Village Hall book sale. We made an incredible £200 to be shared between the Village Hall and the WI. Special thanks to Connie and Tyler for all their hard work.

