

Stillington News

April 2026 Issue 375

Email: news@stillingtonvillage.org

Stillington Chilli Challenge 2026

Grow your own chilli plant and compete for prizes while raising money for charity. Last year the challenge raised £255 for Cancer Research. The 2025 winner, Ricky Guyatt, has chosen Candlelighters' Children's Charity for this year. Entry: £5 per person (includes two seeds) Each participant may enter one plant.



1st Prize: First ripe chilli; **2nd Prize: Plant with the most chillies over 10mm** (judged four weeks later)

Prizes include £25 meal vouchers from The Gulshan and The White Bear, and a bottle of house red or white wine from The Bay Tree and SSSC. The 1st place winner chooses one meal voucher and one bottle of wine. The 2nd place winner receives the remaining prizes.

How to Enter: Sign up and donate at: Post Office • SSSC • The Gulshan • The Bay Tree • The White Bear.

Registration closes: 5th April 2026

Seed collection: From 19th April 2026 (tbc) at locations in Stillington. Open to everyone, as long as you can bring your plant to Stillington for judging.

The chilli variety will be revealed once the plants begin to flower.

Questions?
Tim Brain 07807 985093 tim.brain1@outlook.com.
Get involved, have fun growing chillies, and support a great cause!

EDCCA'S 2026 Mini Bus Trips

EASINGWOLD DISTRICT COMMUNITY CARE ASSOCIATION

• 26 March	Scarborough
• 23 April	Whitby
• 7 May	Burnby Hall Tulip Festival (admission £9.50)
• 25 June	Grassington
• 9 July	Bridlington
• 6 August	Ryedale Folk Museum (admission £10 – valid for 12 months)
• 9 September	Masham
• 9 October	Ilkley
• 4 November	Northallerton
• December	Christmas meal outing (details to be confirmed)

Fare: £20 per trip

We will aim to have a volunteer accompany each trip. However, if there is insufficient interest, we may need to cancel a trip. Transport will be provided by Morse minibuses. Pick-up times are 9:45am from the bus stop on Carr Lane, Stillington, and 10:00am from the Market Place, Easingwold. We expect to return to Easingwold at approximately 4:30pm, followed by a drop-off in Stillington. Booking is essential for all trips.

To reserve a place or request further information, please contact EDCCA on 01347 822875 or email Rachel at carscheme@edcca.org.uk.

Stillington Village Hall

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 27th May 2026 at 7.00pm

Stillington Bowling Club Open Day - Sunday 12th April

If you are interested in trying lawn green bowls, then please come down to our free open day on Sunday 12th April from 2.00pm. Our green and clubhouse are located behind the Stillington Sports and Social Club off York Road in Stillington. We have a stock of loan equipment and coaches will be on hand to show you how to play. Please wear soft, flat-soled shoes (no heels).

Bowling is a fun accessible sport. You can play purely socially, join internal club competitions or play in our local leagues.

If you cannot make that day, then social bowling and coaching will be held every Wednesday evening from 7.00pm starting 15th April.

For more information, please contact Nigel Marsh 07869 467541 or cilmorfa1956@gmail.com.

Stillington Post Office and Stores

Easter Weekend Opening Times: Good Friday (April 3rd): Shop 6.30am - 10.30am, Post Office will be **closed. Easter Saturday (April 4th):** Shop 6.30 - 1.00pm, Post Office 9.00am - 12.30pm. **Easter Monday (April 6th):** Shop 6.30am - 10.30am, Post Office will be **closed.**

Notes from the Editors - Wishing all our readers a very Happy Easter.

We strive to publish as much village news as possible, however with space and budget constraints it is becoming challenging. **With that in mind, please could contributors work within a 350-word restraint?** This means more people can have an input into the newsletter. Many thanks, Lorraine and Wanda.
Please email contributions for the May 2026 issue to news@stillingtonvillage.org by **Wednesday 22nd of April.** 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.

W.I Report

On Wednesday 11th March, we welcomed Dave Thompson to talk to us about his career as an officer in the Fire and Rescue Service. He started as an on-call firefighter providing cover at Easingwold fire station from his workplace in the town then becoming a full-time officer. He told us that the service not only deals with fires, but also road traffic collisions and advising businesses, schools etc on fire safety.
This was a fascinating talk, with some graphic photos and some beautiful (but horrifying) ones of the dreadful moors fire, delivered in a relaxed yet informative way. We learned a lot.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 8th April at 7:30pm when we will hear from Louise, a medal winner in the Transplant Games. ALL visitors welcome (yes, even gentlemen!) £4 entry including refreshments.

Stillington Gardening Club

2026 Bring and Buy Plant Sale to be held on Monday 4th May, 9.30am – 11.00am. It will be held again this year in the Village Hall. We will have refreshments and delicious scones as usual. As it is inside, we will not be worried by the weather. I hope you are having success with your plants for the sale. Don't forget if you are splitting any plants please bring the excess plants for sale. This is our main fundraising event during the year, and we need a good turnout.

April Tips for the Garden:

- Start to feed citrus plants
- Increase the water given to houseplants
- Feed hungry shrubs and roses
- Sow new lawns or repair bare patches
- Prune fig trees

What's On at Stillington Sports & Social Club

- **Thursday 2nd April**: Indoor Equine Table Top Sale, 7.00pm start. Contact Karen - watson@live.co.uk
- **Wednesday 8th April**: Charity Fun Rounders Competition for Endometriosis - starts 6.00pm, £5 per person, open to all.
- **Friday 17th April**: Killer Pool
- **Friday 17th April**: Quiz Night 7.30pm start
- **Sunday 3rd May**: Dog Show & Craft Stalls - further details to follow
- **Saturday 22nd August**: Ladies' Day at the Club. Afternoon watching the Ebor Festival Racing. Afternoon Tea, fizz and lots of laughs.
- **Sunday 30th August**: Family Fun Day, Bouncy Castle, BBQ & Live Music
- **Saturday 26th September**: 80s/90s Music Night. Let's go back in time!

Please support your local sports club!

200 Club Results

1st - Mrs N Smyth; **2nd** - Mrs E Silcock; **3rd** - Mr R Churton, drawn by Our Ernie

Quiz at Sports and Social Club: The final quiz of the season and a very good fundraiser £435 for Friends of Stillington School. Team winners were Alison and Peter Sutherland, David Turvey, Alison and Don Grice-Holt: three other teams were just one point behind.

Thank you to all quiz supporters.

Stillington Sports and Social Club

The recent AGM reported the many positive steps being taken to support the Sports and Social Club and its activities, acknowledging none of this would be possible without the many volunteers. Work continues with repairs and/or upgrades as needed. Committee members include representatives from each sports section, the social committee, and the bar and games room. With the wide range of jobs to be covered inside and outside, we welcome all volunteers – even if only for an hour a week.

Please contact the Club.

News from Stillington Surgery

Stillington Surgery dispenses thousands of items a month to its patients with care and consideration. Over the next few weeks, we are making some changes to our dispensary workspace to ensure that we maintain this high quality service. If you visit the Surgery during this time, you will notice some works underway. We apologise for any inconvenience caused, but it will be business as usual! Thank you for your continued support.

Stillington Wanderers: Hovingham 23rd February over the fields to Wath and up to Hollin Hill and the Centenary Way, passing both active and disused quarries. 9th March walkers left Coxwold Village Hall, passed Shandy Hall, south to the dismantled railway, over Elphin Bridge and Beck; south up to Husthwaite village, along Beacon Banks and the field of alpacas, then downhill to Coxwold, past the old railway station. Too misty to see the White Horse but one egret sighted.

Next walks: 6th and 20th April. Meet outside the White Bear at 9.30am.

The Football Foundation (F.F.) with partners, the Premier League, the FA and Government have approved a significant grant to maintain and improve the two Stillington football pitches. Work costs of ~£20k will be spread over six years as £15k grant and £5 partnership funding from the Sports and Social Club.

It is a mentored 10-year programme reporting back to the F.F.

Litter Picking: Is anyone able to help with litter picking please? Sadly, it's no longer safe to organise a group litter picking outside the 30mph signs in view of the traffic speed and volume. So please do take care if working beyond the 30mph signs. Litter picking sticks and bags are available if needed and N Yorkshire Streetscene will collect litter bags from central point. **Contact the Parish Clerk.**

Stillington Playing Fields Association

The summary for the recent playground inspection: The play area equipment was probably installed around 25 years ago (yes). Although in good condition. Would start planning to replace equipment as and when necessary, in the future; overall quite well maintained. Funding from the next phase of house building off South Back Lane will hopefully support improvements. Thank you to the volunteers who helped weed, tidy up and spread chippings last year. Some minor maintenance is needed going forward and we would welcome any help.

Trustees and members have agreed steps to register the Playing Fields as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission.

Stillington Primary School

It has been a busy and exciting time at school, with many opportunities for our pupils to explore new experiences and celebrate their learning over the spring term.

A highlight from this term was our Sports Enhancement Day. All the children had so much fun as part of our federation event. Throughout the day, pupils had the opportunity to try a wide range of different sports and physical activities. This allowed them to challenge themselves, discover new interests and develop their confidence in being active. We were also delighted to welcome Paralympian Roy Turnham, who visited the event to inspire our pupils. Roy spoke to the children about determination, resilience and the importance of believing in yourself.

We are so proud of all our pupils and their accomplishments over this term. We look forward to the summer term as we continue on our learning journey.

If you would like to attend or arrange a visit to our school to come see the fantastic learning that is taking place, please contact the school office via: stillington.office@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk for more information or to book a visit.

Duke of Edinburgh students have continued their outdoor volunteering tasks removing ivy growth and excessive vegetation in the old churchyard. Some splendid work is being done. Another valuable task has been assisting with the monthly SSSC quizzes.

Note the date.

Walking the Parish Boundary (Beating the Bounds) **Sunday 10th May**, more details later.

Countryside Notes

Tuesday 17th March: Spring has sprung with a wonderful dose of warm sunshine, and at last the cold wind has ceased to blow. The land has dried up a lot and allowed us to fertilise the growing winter corn, it was beginning to look a bit hungry. Fertilizer has jumped up in price as the war in the Middle East has halted oil exports, leaving a lot of problems for all of us.

We have had a lot of birdlife close at hand, as they have come to feed. Greater Spotted Woodpeckers have been feeding regularly on peanuts. There is a pair; the male has a red patch on the back of his head. We hear them drumming, that is rapping a hollow or dead branch with its beak, making a different sound on different woods, a rather heavier sound as they have a go on a piece of oak to the resonant sound of dead sycamore. Our Water Hens are about and the pair are often on the grass near the house.

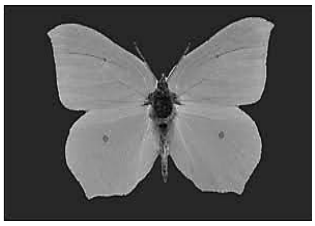
They are not too happy to have three Mallard drakes and a duck splashing about in their pond, disturbing the peace. They will settle down before long. Last Sunday a Stock Dove lighted on the grass, a bird of blue with iridescent green on its neck; these doves are a bit smaller than the Woodpigeon but are often lumped together with them. They have no white collar nor rump.

The Stock Dove also has two wing stripes of black but are nothing like as accentuated, being just narrow stripes. The bird was welcome and has been around these last few days.

The garden needs a lot of work doing at it but many colourful plants are coming into bloom as the Snowdrops bid us farewell, after a very good showing. The Daffodils are flowering well in their lovely golden yellow. How well some of the smaller ones are doing as they clump up and flower. And now a Brimstone has fluttered by, a welcome surprise! May you enjoy the unexpected beauty of the spring as it unfolds.

R & M



Charity Quiz Dates at the White Bear run by Claire Ryan

- Sunday 26th April – in aid of York Riding for the Disabled.
- Sunday 31st May – in aid of Ryedale Dog Rescue.

If you would like a quiz for a charity you support, please let the White Bear/Claire Ryan know.

Easter, with its signs of spring and renewal, is a time of year where the church season is reflected in the natural world. As spring flowers emerge and birds are busy nesting, it is worth pausing to reflect on the deeper meaning of Easter: something that speaks to all of us, regardless of how or whether we practise faith.

At its heart, Easter is a story of transformation. The world wakes up from winter's sleep, trees bud and bloom, as the days lengthen and the sun's warmth strengthens. This natural rebirth echoes the themes that have made Easter meaningful for centuries: the journey through darkness towards hope, and the promise that even after loss, new life begins.

For Christians, Easter commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus, an event that sits at the centre of our faith. Even if church is not part of your routine, the symbolism of death giving way to life is universal. Every one of us, at some point, faces endings. Endings of relationships, jobs, or chapters in our lives. We experience loss and grief, and the ache of things changing. The Easter message reveals that endings, painful though they may be, are not the final word.

So, as this Easter comes around, perhaps we might let its symbolism guide us. It is a time to remember those we have lost, to grieve what has passed, but also to look for the shoots of something new; friendships rekindled; communities coming together, or the simple pleasure of watching children, covered in chocolate, eating their Easter eggs.

Easter invites us all to believe in the possibility of renewal. It is a reminder that, even after the deepest winter, spring will return, and with it, the chance to begin again. Reverend John.

St Nicholas' Church - Priest: Steve Whiting, 01347 810251, revstevewhiting@gmail.com. Lay Minister: Margaret Price 01347 811262, pricehm870@gmail.com. Churchwarden: Richard Mapletoft, 01347 811854, rmapletoft@outlook.com. Canon Emeritus: Robert Law 01347 810940, lrf43@kesonline.org.

Worship in Church in April - all are most welcome for every service.

- **Thursday 2nd** 7.00pm Maundy Thursday Evening Last Supper: a quiet recreation of the first holy communion
- **Friday 3rd** 2.30pm At the Foot of the Cross, outdoors if possible (and it usually is!), The Drama of the Passion
- **Saturday 4th** 7.30 for 8.00pm Easter Vigil: a special, quiet, meditative service
- **Sunday 5th** 10.00am Easter Day Holy Communion, a fantastic time of celebration for all
- **Sunday 12th** **No service at Stillington.** Services at: **Sutton** (8.00am Holy Communion); **Sheriff Hutton** (10.00am Holy Communion); **Farlington** (10.30am Shortened Matins)
- **Sunday 19th** - 10.00am Holy Communion
- **Sunday 26th** - 10.00am Morning Praise

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 9.00am. If you would like to join us or if you would like prayers said 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 cannot 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.

Flower Rota April 2026 - Saturday 4th 10.00am: ALL HELP to decorate the church for Easter.
Sunday 12th Mrs G Churton. **Sundays 19th and 26th** Mrs W Walton

Villages Together Methodist Church Services for April

- **Easter Day 5th** celebrating at Easingwold Methodist Church at 10.00am. Our Easter Communion will be led by our Minister Rev Alex Middleton-Laing
- **Sunday 12th** Rev Alex M-L will lead our worship at Alne Hall at 3.00pm
- **Sunday 19th** worship at Easingwold Methodist Church at 10.30am - led by Rev Ruth Duck
- **Sunday 26th** worship at Tholthorpe Methodist Church at 3.00pm led by Rev Alex M-L, to include Communion

Everyone is welcome to join us at any of these services.

St Mary's Church, Marton in the Forest

Wishing everyone a happy Easter! **Join us for a 6:00am sunrise gathering and 6:00pm Celtic Communion on Easter Sunday.**

Our APCM is at 5:00pm on Sunday 19th April, followed by tea, cake, and evening worship. Residents of Marton and Moxby can contact us with any questions, and all are welcome to attend services or visit for quiet reflection.

The seasonal labyrinth remains available until the end of April, with many others to explore across Ryedale and Hambleton—maps are available at the church.

St Leonard's, Farlington

The churchyard is bright with the colour of spring flowers and new growth on the trees. It is all looking wonderful. Why not come and sit on one of our two outdoor seats to enjoy some quiet time in this area of peace and tranquillity? The Church is open daily for private prayer; the Churchyard is always open.

The services at St Leonard's in April:
Sunday 5th 10.30am Holy Communion for Easter Day (BCP). The bells will be rung.
Sunday 12th 10.30am Shortened Matins (BCP)
Sunday 26th 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 27th 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

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.

The Annual Parishioners' Meeting is on Wednesday 22nd at 2.00pm in church. This meeting is open to residents of Farlington Parish and those who regularly attend services at St. Leonard's Church and is an opportunity to come and hear how the church is being run and perhaps have a say in its future.

The Church Bells: Late in March the church bells were put back into the bell turret of St Leonards. They will be ringing on Easter Day.

Greg James' Comic Relief tandem fundraising ride, from London to Edinburgh, came through Stillington Wednesday 18th March. Good to see the village support; Primary School children lining up along the school wall and a surprise live piper for everyone.





Cricket at Stillington 2026

The new season starts on 25th April when, following our promotion last year, we welcome Beckwithshaw for the first time. Our new partnership with Easingwold CC will ensure that we should have a match at Stillington every Saturday until September and spectators are welcome to enjoy the cricket, the bar and the sunshine. Full fixture and contact details are on our website at stillington.play-cricket.com.

We are always looking to welcome new members, not only to strengthen the team, but also to help with more general support on and off the field. Have you or one of your family or friends considered scoring? It's digital, remunerated, keeps you involved with the team and full training is available.

Sponsorship opportunities also exist for local businesses through our display board and also for individuals (or groups) who would like to support us by sponsoring our weekly match ball (and maybe joining us for a cup of tea!). If you are interested, contact Boz (07379 943378) or Rich (07814 538491) or pop into the club.







PART-TIME POST OFFICE ASSISTANT (9+ hours)
Stillington Community Post Office and Stores

We are looking for an enthusiastic, reliable person to join our friendly Post Office team.

Experience in retail/customer service is helpful but not essential, as training will be provided.

Be part of an important service supporting our local community.

For more information, please call into our shop or contact Tara Robinson on 07581618596 or email tmrobinson@live.co.uk

STILLINGTON GARDENING CLUB

Stillington Gardening Club AGM

The 2026 AGM will be held on Wednesday 29th April, starting at 7.15pm and will finish before the talk begins! It will be held as usual in the Village Hall. Our April Speaker will be Sam Shipman. His topic will be Beningbrough /Treasurer's House and Goddards. His talk will begin at 7.30pm. Do bring a friend/guest to the talk; they may wish to join the Club at some stage.