

## Stillington Hall

No-one knows where the first Stillington Hall stood - but in 1733 Stephen Croft - Great, Great Grandson of Sir Christopher and future patron of Laurence Sterne, inherited the Manor and began building a grand new hall following the style promoted by Yorkshire born architect Lord Burlington: the result was a house of two and a half storeys in the Palladian style. The sumptuous interior was attributed to Burlington himself.

In the 1850s the Hall was rendered and a conservatory was added to the south side. It was auctioned off in 1894, along with over 200 acres of land, and was bought by Rawdon Thornton JP. He in turn sold it in 1903 to Matthew Liddell, who was affectionately called 'The Squire' by villagers. After The Squire's death in 1934 the Hall became a nursing home run by a Catholic order, The Alexian Brothers. After their departure in 1949 another Catholic order, The Verona Fathers, turned The Hall into a Junior Seminary. They stayed until 1960, when The Hall's decline began: stripped of its magnificence it was demolished in the 1960s and replaced by the Parkfield housing estate .



## History Of Stillington

About 1500 years ago an Anglo-Saxon named Styfel founded a settlement which became Stillington. He was following in others' footsteps - Romano-British settlers were here before him, leaving their quern stones to be found by archaeologists.

In the Domesday Book Stivelicton was a poor hamlet belonging to the Canons of St Peter at York, with the Archbishop of York as Tenant-in-Chief. By 1295, however, it was a thriving village: it had a stone built church, with a priest; two watermills and a windmill; 20 acres of meadow and 36 oxgangs.

In 1616 the Manor was leased to one William Ramsden and in 1625, an ambitious Alderman from York, Christopher Croft, took on the lease for three lifetimes. He had a link to the village, his father in law, John Wellford, had been the prebendary.

By 1649 Sir Christopher, knighted by Charles I in 1641, had bought the Manor outright. Thomas, son of Sir Christopher by his second wife, was the first of the Crofts to live in Stillington and the family stayed for seven generations until the Manor was sold in 1895 by Harry Croft.

Their surviving influence is difficult to see, but they did build houses in Stillington, notably one which became The White Bear Inn, and were responsible for the layout of the roads and lanes, fields and boundaries, through the Enclosure Act of 1766.

## Post Office and Stores

Stillington Community Association was formed in July 2003 by local people unwilling to see their Post Office and shop close on the retirement of its owners. With their drive and the support of the community the business was bought and has gone from strength to strength, providing a wide range of goods and services in both the Post Office and Stores. It is managed by volunteers and well supported by the community which owns it.

*This version October 2013*

## Stillington Local Walks

# Walk 8

## Illustrated map of Stillington



A map of the village showing the main features of historical interest

This walk is one in a series prepared by people from Stillington for the enjoyment of visitors and villagers.

**9. Croft Coat of Arms, 1 Mossy Terrace**

Hung above the door of Stillington Hall, home of Crofts, manor lords 1649-1895



**1. Village Pond**

One of the original six watering holes of the village

TO EASINGWOLD



**2. Admiral's House**

Named for Admiral William Croft 1782-1872 who remodelled a c1730 house to resemble Stillington Hall

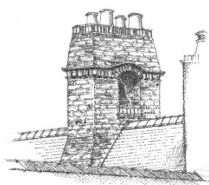


**3. Railings**

The village's distinctive railings date from early C20

**12. Chapel**

Originally a Wesleyan school, built 1860. Opened 1971 replacing a redundant chapel of 1844



**11. Primary School**

Opened 1907, replacing the Wesleyan and National schools. Stained glass window commemorates centenary



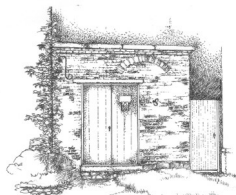
**6. Church**

Founded C12. Remodelled C15. Extensively re-built 1840. Exterior: moulding round priest's door and sundial to door's right. Interior: C12 statue of St Nicholas; Norman font; rare George II coat of arms; woodwork by 'Mousey' Thompson



**5. Beech Cottage**

Birthplace of George Russell MBE 1857-1951. Father of the Russell Lupin



**4. Electricity Substation**

Surprisingly this used to be a cottage

Not to scale

Illustrator - Eileen Lomas

NORTH BACK LANE

HIGH STREET

MAIN STREET

TO YORK



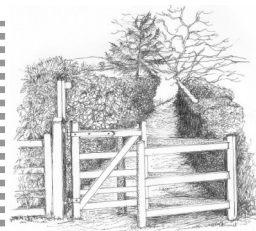
**7. PO & Stores**

Run as a community shop since 2003



**8. Little Garth**

Shop 1830s—1950s latterly under Souter family. Drapers above, grocers behind the impressive window



20

**20. Lucy Balk footpath**

Medieval name Luce Baulk. Once led to hay meadows rich in the fodder plant lucerne



**14. Famars**

C17 timber-framed, aisled cottage of a type once common in Stillington. Now only remaining example



**19. Boot and Shoe Cottage**

Beerhouse under Thomas Hodgeson, boot and shoe maker. Later Public House. Short-lived Temperance Hotel



**15. Chandlers**

Named for the candle factory, located at the rear, run by the Sowray family early C19



**10. Wellington House**

Once 'The Villa'. Doctors' surgery 1850s-1920s, then nursing home to WW2



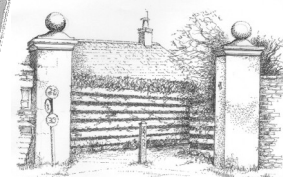
**16. Woodside Cottage**

Servants' quarters for Stillington Hall, whose coachyard lay to the rear



**18. Village Hall**

National School, founded 1821 by the Squire Harry Croft 1775-1853. Converted to present use in 1929



**17. Stone Pillars**

Led to Stillington Hall, a Palladian Mansion built c1734 for Stephen Croft 1712-1798. Demolished 1967

TO HELMSLEY

TO MALTON

SOUTH BACK LANE