

# Scruton News

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August 2024



## Red Arrows Flying Display Over Scruton



Red Arrows team arrive at RAF Leeming on 25 July. Photo by Mike Gough.



## Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

The dearth of summer insects has continued well into July and even farmer Clarkson of Diddy Squat Farm has concerns. Butterfly conservationists are worried because numbers have been continually falling for some years. Early returns from Butterfly Watch are not encouraging with over ten percent of people failing to see a butterfly in the allotted time. Bat conservationists are finding bat body weights have fallen, reflecting lack of insect food.

Particularly on an evening, swifts have been circling the village in tightly formed groups, screaming as they pass their nests. This is twofold, one to encourage their young to leave their nests, and secondly that it is nearing time to migrate. My best estimate suggests we had at least twenty birds, which now appear to have gone.



One summer migrant that is closely related to pheasant and partridge is the quail. These birds arrive from North Africa in late spring and breed in the fields around the village. They are rarely seen but have a very distinct "pick-per-wick" call, which is very loud for a small bird. A few have recently been heard locally. Like many migrant birds they're unfortunately subject to net trapping as they cross east Mediterranean countries, where they have been hunted for hundreds of years.



## Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

The winter barley has now been harvested and the straw baled. I started to use the combine harvester on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in July, but I had to stop after 50 metres because a bearing on the return's auger had seized and it took 20 hours of work to replace it. Luckily, I had a replacement bearing in my workshop, so I didn't have to wait until Monday to buy a replacement. 50 years of repairing farm machinery has taught me that if one bearing wears out, it's prudent to buy a second, which will soon be required.

The sheep shearing is now completed but this is around a month later than normal, partly because the weather was very cold last month and also because I had covid and didn't feel able to tip over 16 stone sheep to shear them. I had a heart attack after my last infection of covid and wasn't going to risk that again.

Although the summer has been showery, somehow, we have been able to make much more hay than normal. The rainy spring has given excellent crops of grass and there have been enough dry intervals to make the grass into hay.






## Scruton Sky-at-Night

by Graham Dodds

**Comets/Meteors** - The 'Perseid' meteor shower will 'peak' around the 11 – 13th August. Look north-east, after the Moon has set (~11 pm). The display can be quite prolific as the dust from comet Swift-Tuttle burns up; the best views are after midnight.

**Constellations** - The summer 'triangle' continues to dominate: Vega in Lyra (The Lyre) is close to zenith, with Deneb, in Cygnus, to its east, and Altair, in Aquila (The Eagle), southward.

**Planets** - Saturn rises after 9 pm and on the 21st, the Moon will occult this beautiful planet. It is the first occultation, seen from the UK since 2007. In the morning of 27-28<sup>th</sup>, the crescent Moon will form a group with Jupiter and Mars.

**The Moon** - The new moon appears on the 4th. First quarter  is on the 12th and full  on the 19th. Last quarter Moon  occurs on the 26th. August's Moon will be a Supermoon! (Sturgeon Moon in the USA).



## Fireworks Quiz Night

A Quiz Night with Raffle and Games to raise money for the *Thankful Village Fireworks Display* (in November), will take place in the Coore Arms at 7:30 pm on **Sunday 25 August**. The cost is £12 per person to include hot food. Please call the Coore Arms (01609 748 215) to reserve a table for your team. Donation of Raffle Prizes would be appreciated, contact Greg Clapham or Mark Gatenby (or bring them on the night).



## Gardeners' World

by Elizabeth Davies

The warm weather has arrived, and tomatoes are ripening. If they are in a greenhouse they need plenty of ventilation; water sprayed on the floor helps to increase the humidity as they can overheat. Lavender is flowering and if you make lavender bags or put it in bowls, now is the time to pick it. Choose freshly opened flowers, hang bunches upside down to dry in a well-ventilated, dark place like a shed or garage.

Phlox, one of my favourite perennials, are flowering well and seem to have liked the earlier damp conditions as they have grown quite tall. They come in many colours. If the soil becomes too dry they will wilt, but just give them a can of water to revive them.



If you have any Box topiary or hedging, now is the time to trim them, choose a cool, damp day; if it is too hot and sunny they will scorch. If they are in pots give them a feed of fertiliser and a good water and they will soon reshoot. Box is easy to grow from cuttings. Strip off the bottom leaves from a cutting 5-6 inches long, plant in loamy soil and in a few months you will have new plants for free. One drawback with Box is the Box Tree caterpillar which can appear when the temperature and humidity rise and can quickly de-foliate the plants, so inspect them regularly. Keep dead-heading roses and sweet peas. It's an almost daily job but worth the effort.



## Services at St Radegund's

All services at St Radegund's are on Sunday at 9:30 am except where stated. The Rev. Jenni Lane may be contacted on 01609 631122.

- 4 Aug** No service in Scruton
- 11 Aug** Holy Communion, Jenni/Paul
- 18 Aug** Holy Communion, Jenni/Stasi
- 21 Aug** Evensong (Wed at 7pm), Jenni
- 25 Aug** Morning Worship, Stasi
- 1 Sep** Holy Communion, Stasi



## Coffee Morning

There is no Coffee Morning in August but please join us at the next one on 21 Sep.



## Petrolheads

Our next meeting on **Thurs 8 August** will be a road trip in an easterly direction. Call Alan on 01609 748 712 for details.



## Strollers & Striders

Walks take place on Monday mornings. Look out for messages on Network Scruton. For more details contact Janet Crampton on 07540 503 030 or email [janetcrampton@icloud.com](mailto:janetcrampton@icloud.com)

## Kirkby Fleetham WI

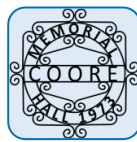
The August meeting will be an outing for members. For further details call Carol Barron on 01609 748 315, or email [carolinesboxes@gmail.com](mailto:carolinesboxes@gmail.com)



## Harvest Supper

The Harvest Supper will be on **Friday 13 September** at 7:30 pm in the village hall. Tickets at £10 per person to include supper and a glass of wine, available from Josie Exelby, tel 07837 337 592 or email [jo.xlb@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jo.xlb@hotmail.co.uk)

**The Copy Deadline for the next Scruton News is 25 AUGUST**



## Coore Memorial Hall

For all enquiries, please email [villagehall@scruton.net](mailto:villagehall@scruton.net)

## Thank You Slots

**John Thompson & family** – thank everyone for their fantastic support following the death of Carol on 9 June. Over £1,200 was donated and has been passed on to St Michael's Hospice.

**Coffee Morning** – thanks to your support in July, we donated £375 to the Friends of the Friarage's Eye Appeal.

**Jazz-in-the-Garden** – the final amount (including post event donations) raised for the Royal British Legion was £601. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event, to those who helped with the marquee and gazebos and to SJB who waived their fee for playing at the Old Rectory.

**The Royal British Legion** – is now the UK's largest employer of Admiral Nurses, who specialise in dementia care, which is more likely to affect members of the armed forces than civilians.

## Safari Supper

Safari Supper this year will take place on Saturday 19 October. This is a wonderful way to meet and socialise with your Scruton friends and neighbours whilst raising money for a good cause. This event involves you making one course of a meal for 6 people, then moving to a different house for each course with different diners. Neither the guests nor the hosts know who is coming! The evening ends with everyone meeting up in the pub.



If you would like to participate or want more information please contact Karen Long on 07876 340 184 or email [karenrachel69@gmail.com](mailto:karenrachel69@gmail.com)

## From the Parish Council

By Cllr. Syd Nye

**Charlie Hoare** - SPC have been asked to consider a more appropriate location for the memorial board commemorating Charlie Hoare. Cllr Trevor Howe informs us that Charlie was responsible for fund raising and purchasing the Village Hall for Scruton (and its renovation, updating of electrics, installing heating, kitchen and toilets), the Playing Fields and the Village Green. He also organised road upgrades and registration of footpaths. As he improved the village considerably, we invite suggestions of where to site the large Commemorative Board.

**Dog Mess** - Following more complaints about mess left on the footpaths, we have asked the Dog Warden to visit more regularly. As shown on the signs, fines can be imposed up to £1000, so be sure to pick up after your dogs!

**Security** - There was a burglary in the village recently, so please remember to close your windows whilst out and if you go away for a few days, do not advertise the fact on social media.

The burnt-out car on Fence Dyke Lane has been removed and the area cleared.

**The Emergency Defibrillator** – is located outside the Coore Arms. In an emergency, the 999 operator will give you a code to unlock it.

**Vacancies** - We are still advertising for another Parish Councillor and a Parish Clerk, if you are interested, please contact any one of us for further details.

## Thankful Ale Scruton IPA

Available for local delivery at £27.50 for a case of 12 bottles, cash on delivery or BACS details on request. Call Richard (Chalky) on 07545 123 856 or message via village WhatsApp or Facebook. Every bottle sold raises money for the village.



Originally Sextilis, the month was renamed in the year 8 BC in honour of Emperor **Augustus**.

## Scruton Parish Councillors

|                          |               |  |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|
| Chris Barron (Admin)     | 01609 748 315 | <a href="mailto:ronald.barron315@gmail.com">ronald.barron315@gmail.com</a> |
| John Cherry              | 01609 748 573 | <a href="mailto:johnhcherry@btinternet.com">johnhcherry@btinternet.com</a> |
| Maurice Daley (Chair)    | 07881 443 248 | <a href="mailto:maurice@mdpuk.co.uk">maurice@mdpuk.co.uk</a>               |
| Trevor Howe (Vice Chair) | 01609 748 355 | <a href="mailto:tdhscruton@gmail.com">tdhscruton@gmail.com</a>             |
| Syd Nye                  | 01609 748 464 | <a href="mailto:syd@nyeref.co.uk">syd@nyeref.co.uk</a>                     |

## North Yorkshire Councillor (Morton-on-Swale & Appleton Wiske)

Annabel Wilkinson 01677 426 744 [cllr.annabel.wilkinson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.annabel.wilkinson@northyorks.gov.uk)

## Parish Council Meetings 2024

The public are welcome to attend council meetings in the Coore Memorial Hall, starting at 7:30 pm.

**12 September 14 November**

**Scruton News** is published by Scruton Parish Council and edited by Stephen Elmer. Please note - the editor reserves the right to make changes for editorial reasons; some views may not be those of the Parish Council.

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To send messages please contact Janet Crampton on 07540 503030 or [janetcrampton@icloud.com](mailto:janetcrampton@icloud.com)