

Scruton News

www.scruton.net

March 2024



Gardeners' World

by Elizabeth Davies

It has been an extremely wet winter, almost impossible to get on the ground, but a good time to re-plan the garden and to experiment with contrasting shapes, textures and colours. Gardens never stand still and always need re-thinking. Snowdrops are finishing and this is the best time to split them 'in the green' when they transplant much better than growing from bulbs. Divide large clumps into roughly 5-6 bulbs and plant them covering the white part of the stem.

Hellebores are in full flower. Cut down their leaves to the base to see the flowers properly, this will also help to eradicate the virus which they may get that causes brown blotches on their leaves. Leave them to set seed, save some. Pot them up and in two years you will have new plants for free.

It is time to sow sweet peas. Put 4 seeds in a pot and transplant them against a trellis or wigwam of bamboo or twigs. For larger flowers and longer stems, plant them individually. I have planted half my broad beans in pots in the greenhouse for an early crop and will plant the rest next month directly into the ground, then they will be ready at different times. Early potatoes need chitting now in a frost-free shed or garage ready to plant in April.

Gardeners' Question Time

GQT returns to Scruton village hall on **Thurs 18 April**. Experts from RHS Harlow Carr will give a short talk and answer all your gardening queries. For details: www.scrutonallotments.org.uk

Film Night Under Review

Screen Scruton, which has run very successfully since 2012, now faces some challenges: audience numbers and donations have declined over the long term; many homes now have large 4k/QHD TVs with streaming services (Netflix, Amazon Prime etc.) and the equipment is now in need of an upgrade at a not insignificant cost. Before any expenditure is undertaken, we would appreciate your frank feedback, for example:

What could be improved at Screen Scruton? If you are not a regular filmgoer, what might encourage you to give it a try? **Please send any feedback to stephen.elmer@scruton.net**



Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

Walking up Fence Dyke Lane recently, I noticed a huge flock of fieldfares feeding when suddenly a large female sparrow hawk made an attack and killed one. While it was plucking off the feathers a male sparrow hawk made an approach but was quickly chased off. While this took place a buzzard snaffled the fieldfare and began to feed. Unbeknown to the buzzard yet another buzzard was making a low-level attack, and on arrival bowled it over, claiming the corpse.



Fieldfare



Buzzard

Buzzards are very common around the village and can be seen swooping and spiralling, especially at this time of the year as they establish their breeding territories. They can vary in colour enormously from dark brown to almost white. Currently we have at least three which are particularly pale, possibly the progeny of an almost white one that lived in the area about five years ago.

Sightings - Derek and Carol have a hedgehog in their garden and regular visits from a pheasant. Lapwings are returning to breeding sites around the village. Blackbirds have now joined the song thrushes in the dawn and evening choruses.

Those of you who live adjacent to our two village rookeries will be getting an ever earlier morning 'caw' as the rooks have started building!



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.



Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

This has been the wettest winter of the 50 that I have been farming. It is mostly dry in the lambing sheds where I have buckets to catch rain which drips through holes in the roof and can be used to water the sheep in their pens. It feels like I'm spinning plates, as Thom Yorke of Radiohead sings, trying to keep everything alive in lambing time. Ewes like to deliver their lambs during bad weather and so they tend to lamb in batches and then claim each other's lambs. It takes the judgement of Solomon to work out which lamb belongs to which ewe, to avoid later rejection. Getting colostrum into each new-born is the next essential and the sheep are put into individual pens with their (hopefully) correct lambs. Wet weather has caused a lot of lameness in the flock, and I have lost several new-born lambs because their mother has laid on them and could not be bothered to get up when she had foot rot in one hoof. It only takes a minute, and the lamb is lost, so I cannot rest.

We managed to pick some potatoes recently, but as the losses are now about 70%-80% I may just plough the rest out for the frost and geese to get rid of them.



Scruton Sky at Night

by Graham Dodds

Constellations - Orion continues its dominance, but Leo begins to dominate in the south. Its 'reverse' question mark, aka 'the Sickle', at the base, contains the 1st magnitude star Regulus which, through a good telescope, will be seen as two pairs of stars. At 79 light years from our Sun, Regulus will lie close to a waxing gibbous Moon on the 21 March.

Planets - Jupiter remains the brightest planetary object. On 13 March Jove will be close to a waxing crescent Moon 🌙. Mercury will be at its best from 23-27 March, low in the western twilight, shining brightly at magnitude -1.2

The Moon - Our closest celestial neighbour is at a major 'standstill' during 2024-25, something that occurs every 18.6 years. The last quarter 🌑 is on the 3 March, with the New Moon appearing on the 10th. The first quarter 🌒 is on the 17th. On the 25th we'll see the full 🌕

Don't forget the long-awaited Equinox on 20 March, when the Moon is waxing and our clocks 'spring' forward! Enjoy!



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.

- 3 Mar** Holy Communion, Jenni/Stasi
- 10 Mar** Holy Communion, Jenni/Stasi
- 17 Mar** No service in Scruton
- 24 Mar** Morning Worship, Paul
- 29 Mar** Good Friday (2pm), Jenni/Stasi
- 31 Mar** Holy Communion, Jenni/Stasi



Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning on **Saturday 16 March**, 10 – 12 in the village hall, will be in aid of Marie Curie. Donations of Raffle Prizes and items for the Cake Stall would be appreciated. Please attach a list of ingredients for cakes & produce. Contact Jacqueline on 01609 748 712.



Petrolheads

Our next meeting is on **Thurs 14 March**, 7:30 pm at the Coore Arms. Sue Harpley will give a talk entitled *Side-by-Side*. Call Alan on 01609 748 712 for details.



Lunch Club

The next Lunch Club is on **Sunday 17 March**, 12:30 pm at the Coore Arms. Please contact Alyson Tonge if you wish to participate, Tel 01609 748 227 or email alysontonge@gmail.com



Lent Lunch

Join us on **Friday 22nd March** from 12 until 2 pm in the village hall for a variety of home-made soups and rolls. There is no charge, but donations welcome for St. Radegund's Church Fabric Fund.



Book Club

The next Book Club is on **Tuesday 26 March** at 2:30 pm. Contact Janet Crampton for details on 07540 503 030.

Scruton Ladies Evening Do

The next SLED meets for drinks and supper on **Wed 27 March**, 7 pm at the Coore Arms. Please let Helen know if you wish to join in by calling 07852 998 033, email helen_allison@icloud.com

Kirkby Fleetham WI

Please join us for 'Burtree Puddings' on **Thursday 14 March**, 7:15 pm at Kirkby Fleetham village hall. For details call Carol Barron, 01609 748 315, or carolinesboxes@gmail.com



Jazz Supper Evening

Scruton Jazz & Blues at Kirkby Fleetham Village Hall, **Saturday 13 April** at 7 pm. Tickets £10 each to include meat/cheese platter, bring your own drinks. Tickets from Susan Rogers 07776 145 529 or susan@susanrogers.me.uk



Screen Scruton

Wednesday 13 March
7 pm in the Village Hall

The film will start at 7 pm and there will be an intermission



Life story of J Robert Oppenheimer and the top-secret Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb. Stars Cillian Murphy and Robert Downey Jr.

With subtitles; café style seating; bring your own drinks & nibbles; admission free (donations in aid of the village hall).

Please email Stephen Elmer at stephen.elmer@scruton.net

The Copy Deadline for the next Scruton News is 23 MARCH

Thank You Slot

The Guide Dogs Dales & District Fund Rising branch thank all who supported the last coffee morning, which was a busy and heartening event with 9 dogs present! The coffee morning raised over £508 which together with books, crafts and trading stalls produced a grand total of £667, most of which will go towards naming a puppy after Andrew Brereton.

From the Parish Council

By Cllr. Syd Nye (Chairman)

New Cherry Tree - We thank Tony Hoare for donating the replacement ornamental cherry tree; Trevor has planted it near the stump of the old tree between the corner of Parklands and Laburnum Cottage. Trevor also cleared the mud and debris from the pavement along Station Road. Thanks Trevor.

Parish Resilience - The plan is almost complete, and several volunteers have already provided contact details. If anyone else wishes to participate in the plan, please supply contact details so we can include you in the call out system. We are only including those who have given us their details; we are not assuming willing participants.

Ham Hall Lane - We are led to believe that work is still ongoing to identify the cause of the flooding. When we get any more news we will let everyone know.

Vacancies - SPC have two vacancies for Councillors and a vacancy for a Parish Clerk; we really need these filling. We can co-opt Councillors as the next elections are not due until 2027. The Parish Clerk is a paid position and is fundamental to running the Council. Age is no barrier to filling these positions, if you think you can help make Scruton a better place to live. Please don't hesitate to get in touch, we need your help.

Coore Memorial Hall

For all enquiries, please email villagehall@scruton.net

Scruton Parish Councillors

Chris Barron (Clerk)	01609 748 315	ronald.barron315@gmail.com
Maurice Daley	01609 748 198	maurice@mdpuk.co.uk
Trevor Howe	01609 748 355	tdhscruton@gmail.com
Syd Nye (Chair)	01609 748 464	syd@nyeref.co.uk
Mike Widmer	01609 748 392	mawstonemole@gmail.com

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

Annabel Wilkinson 01677 426 744 cldr.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.

14 March, 11 April (APM), 9 May (AGM)

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