

Scruton News

www.scruton.net

February 2024



Morton Bridge Saga

Syd Nye reports that Scruton Parish Councillors met with the Highways Agency and North Yorkshire Council regarding the recent flooding at Morton Flatts. Apparently, an automatic email system is now in place to alert Parish Councils to flooding issues, this email is received by both Syd and the Parish Clerk, who, hopefully, will forward messages of bridge closure to **Network Scruton** enabling anyone, particularly those with urgent appointments in Northallerton to make alternative travel arrangements.



The Agency also report that a proposed automatic system which will register the height of the water and enable the Highways agency to close the A684 earlier is being worked on. However, some of the recent problems with abandoned vehicles blocking the road after their occupants were rescued by the emergency services have been caused by drivers ignoring flood warning signs only to be stranded in deep water.



Looking Back

by the Time Traveller

The classically inspired Grade II listed bridge at Morton-on-Swale was designed and built in 1747-48 by Yorkshire architect John Carr (1723 - 1807). Carr worked almost exclusively in Yorkshire and was responsible for designing many private and public buildings, including Constable Burton Hall and the prison in Northallerton, as well as over 50 bridges, many of which are still in use today.

Another Swinging Night for SJB (Green Dragon, Exelby on 25 January)



Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

The recent request from the council asking farmers to clear the roads of drifts in times of heavy snowfall reminds me of the last time that the village was isolated by drifts, in excess of seven feet! It was in March 1979, and I cleared the road to Scruton Lane End. Farmers don't need asking, we just get on and do it. On this occasion the road was filled with drifts to the top of the hedges and the biggest problem was finding somewhere to drop the many tons of snow which I cleared off the road. I still remember digging out the council snow plough which got stuck!

I was recently going to fill in the potholes which are damaging cars in Ham Hall Lane. My thinking was that, if the council can't be bothered, then I'll do it myself, but people keep saying that I will be sued by the council if I undertake the work myself. Now can someone explain to me, how do we farmers stand, if a task needs doing and we have the means and machinery to help put things right, are we going to be prosecuted for doing it?



Scruton Sky at Night

by Graham Dodds

Websites recommendations – go to www.darks skiesnationalparks.org.uk (look for North York Moors & Yorkshire Dales) to find out about 'Star Parties' held this month by the York Astronomical Soc. & Reeth Astronomy Group. For advance notice of Aurora Borealis sightings, go to www.aurorawatch.lancs.ac.uk

Constellations - Orion moves westward during February, with Leo (the Lion) & Boötes (the Herdsman) rising early in the east, both harbingers of Spring. Still, with Orion being significant in the night sky, note the 'asterism' of the three stars that make up its 'belt', the so called Three Kings or Sisters: Alnilam (east) Alnitak (centre) and Mintaka (west), a binary star, with a x90,000 luminosity compared to our Sun.

Planets - Jupiter remains king, seen southward mostly, and high up, the brightest planetary object. Venus, at the beginning of the month, on the 7th, finds itself low in the SE before dawn next to a waning crescent moon 🌙

The Moon - A new moon on the 9th, with a waxing crescent moon 🌑 near to Jupiter, on the 14th-15th, and a full moon on the 24th. The last quarter moon 🌘 falls on the 3rd March. - Enjoy!



Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

At the end of the last Ice Age much of England was covered by an ice sheet between two and three kilometres thick. Over the millennia the ice melted, and a huge glacial lake formed stretching in extent from modern day Kiplin Hall to Cambridge! The initial lake level extended from Leases Lane in the west to Bramper Lane in the east. Thus, the land on which Scruton now stands was under water. The lake level then dropped to a shoreline that pretty much follows Fleetham Lane and Scruton emerged as an island. Over time the lake became infilled with grave sand and glacial clays.

Standing at the junction of Fence Dyke and Fleetham Lanes and looking north, it isn't difficult to imagine a lake, especially given the current flooded nature of the fields. Scruton stands above the highest flood level, however without the embankments it could be a different matter.



There are definite signs of Spring; on the Green aconites and snowdrops are in full flower and daffodils well on their way. On sunny days, the paired rooks are fighting over nesting sites in the limes and will soon start building. An oystercatcher was seen at Morton Flatts and a shelduck on flood land adjacent to Fleetham Lane. Song and mistle thrushes are beginning to sing, and at long last daylight is extending. Hooray!!

The Votes are In! (for the Scruton 'Oscars')

In the 'Barbenheimer' cultural debate, Scruton is definitely an Oppenheimer kind of village. Scruton film-goers' top choices for the next four films are:

- ✓ **The Great Escaper** (27 yes votes)
- ✓ **Oppenheimer** (27 yes votes)
- ✓ **Allelujah** (27 yes votes)
- ✓ **The Miracle Club** (24 yes votes)

(X FYI - Barbie got 26 No Votes!)



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 Feb** No service in Scruton
- 11 Feb** Holy Communion, Jenni & Stasi
- 14 Feb** Evensong (Ash Wed. at 7 pm)
- 18 Feb** Morning Worship, Paul & Stasi
- 25 Feb** Holy Communion, Jenni
- 3 Mar** Holy Communion, Jenni & Stasi



Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning on **Saturday 17 February, (10 – 12 am)** in the village hall, will be in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind. Further details will follow on **Network Scruton**.



Lunch Club

The next Lunch Club is on **Sunday 18 February, 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



Book Club

The next Book Club is on **Tuesday 27 February** at 2:30 pm. For details, call/text Janet Crampton on 07540 503 030 or email janetcrampton@icloud.com



Strollers & Striders

Walks take place on Monday mornings. Look out for messages on Network Scruton. For more info call/text Janet Crampton on 07540 503 030 or email janetcrampton@icloud.com

Kirkby Fleetham WI

Please join us for a talk about 'Yorkshire Air Ambulance' on **Thurs 8 February, 7:15 pm** at Kirkby Fleetham village hall. For details call Carol Barron, 01609 748 315, or carolinesboxes@gmail.com



Petrolheads

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 8 February, 7:30 pm** at the Coore Arms. Call Alan on 01609 748 712 for details.



Screen Scruton

Wednesday 14 February 7:30 pm in the Village Hall



A geriatric ward in a small Yorkshire hospital fights back when threatened with closure. Stars Jenifer Saunders, Derek Jacobi and Judi Dench.

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



Letters to the Editor

Wendy & Graeme Nicholson have written – We would like to thank all our friends and neighbours for all the support with transport and visiting while Graeme was in hospital, and now with continuing support both practical and emotional.

Village Hall News

Auditor - The Coore Memorial Hall is looking for a volunteer to audit the annual accounts for the AGM in May. If you can help, please call/text Michele Hargan (Treasurer) on 07894 587 262 or send an email to the address below.

Email – For all future enquiries please email villagehall@scruton.net

Diary - The village hall diary is now kept on a Google calendar.

From the Parish Council

By Cllr. Syd Nye (Chairman)

Thank You - to Rob and Bill Raine for their valiant efforts in clearing the flood on Station Road.

Fly Tipping - There appears to be an increase of fly tipping, which we have reported to Highways. You can also report fly tipping on the NYC website. The more reports they receive, the more likely it is that something will be done.

Ham Hall Lane – The good news is that some potholes have now been repaired. We are informed that the road will be closed from now to mid-March to work on the flooding problems (but given the recent storms, it may well take longer).

Resilience Plan - The basic ethos of the village plan is that, in the event of the routes in and out of the village being closed by fallen trees or massive snow fall etc., Network Scruton and the village WhatsApp groups will be used to put out a call to arms for those with suitable vehicles, chain saws and shovels to help clear the routes so that the emergency services can get in and out.

The Village Hall will become the safe/warm space. We hope to encourage neighbour hubs whereby residents will look out for their vulnerable neighbours in the first instance Those with alternative heating and cooking facilities can perhaps help with hot drinks and food.

In addition, we would encourage all single occupants to have a fail-safe plan whereby they contact a relative or neighbour at least twice a day to let them know they are OK. In the event of not hearing, the neighbour/relative can gain access to the premises to see if all is well or if medical assistance is needed, thus reducing the time left unattended.

It is a very simple plan and one we feel can be achieved. We do not have the facilities or resources for a more elaborate one. It is accepted that not everyone will be pleased with this plan.

The Copy Deadline for the next Scruton News is 24 FEBRUARY

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 | mstonemole@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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