

Scruton News

Scruton Parish Council

February 2020



New for February

Dark Winter Skies - We are fortunate in Scruton to live where there is minimal light pollution and mostly clear views to the horizon. These are ideal conditions to view the night sky, especially during the winter months. In recognition of this, Peter Williams has kindly agreed to write an article about what can be seen this month in the night sky from Scruton; hopefully this may become a regular feature.

New Website on its Way!

March should see the relaunch of the Scruton parish website. The site, first developed by Richard Zealley around 2005, has become outdated over the past few years and much of the content now needs refreshing. In order to help get things moving again, Richard has been working with Stephen Elmer on a new design for the site, and assembling a team of contributors to update it with current information, latest news and events from around the parish. This should make it a really useful online resource for the parish once again.

Look out for further news on this in the next edition.



Nature Notes

By Andy Johnston

Winter has been very mild and wet, resulting in large pools of water in fields attracting Little Egrets. Up to four have regularly been seen in the Parklands and the fields in front of the Coore Arms. Ten years ago this would have been a very rare sight! Already spring flowers are to be seen on the village green; snow drops and aconites are plentiful, and will be closely followed by daffodils and crocuses. The rooks have started to sit in pairs in the lime trees, trying to establish their nesting sites, resulting in considerable squabbling and cawing. On one of the lime trees beside the lychgate, a great spotted woodpecker (shown in photo) is using a hollow branch as a sounding board, which can clearly be heard over a considerable distance!! Song birds, especially thrushes and robins, are beginning to sing as the days grow longer.

Snowdrops on Scruton Village Green



Scruton helps to End Polio

Many villagers have supported Janet Crampton's fundraising efforts for Rotary Charities, including the *End Polio Now* campaign which aims to see the worldwide eradication of polio.

In recent years the small number of notifiable cases has been in countries that are inaccessible due to politics, conflict or geography. India has been declared clear of polio but its border with Pakistan is vulnerable. Janet has taken the opportunity to see how some of the fundraising is put to good effect by taking part in an immunisation programme in the Punjab where international Rotarians are helping to immunise young children through house visits and in pop-up clinics where the vaccine is administered in the form of drops on the tongue.



Di Pownall and Janet Crampton at a school rally for polio immunisation

Janet, and all the other volunteers, made the trip this year entirely at their own expense and she extends her thanks to everyone locally who has generously donated to help stamp out the scourge of polio. One million infants have been immunised across India, "we did 183 of them" says Janet!

Great spotted woodpecker feeding at the Old Rectory



Scruton Sky at Night

by Peter Williams

On the evening of 8 February we will witness the first of four "supermoons" occurring in 2020. Supermoons are also known as *wolf moon*, *hunters moon* or *harvest moon* but the astronomically correct name is perigee full moon.

The Moon's orbit is elliptical, meaning its distance from Earth is constantly changing. The two extremes are known as perigee (closest to Earth) and apogee (farthest from Earth) and each occurs once a month. The timing of full moon and lunar perigee or apogee are not in sync but drift in and out of phase over the course of many lunar orbits. Sometimes a full moon occurs close to perigee and the visual impact of a perigee full moon compared to an apogee full moon is that the Moon is approximately 14% larger and 30% brighter. The second 'supermoon' in 2020 will be on 9 March.

Mercury will be at its furthest from the setting sun on 10 February and hence is easier to see. You'll need good eyesight but look low in the western sky just after sunset. The planet Venus will also be visible to the upper left and will appear much brighter.



Finally, you can catch a glimpse of the International Space Station (ISS) on 3 February at 5.34pm. Look to the south-west where it will first appear; it then travels across to the east-south-east reaching a high elevation of 46°. You need to get the timing right as it will only be visible for about 4 minutes.

Dates for your Diary

Screen Scruton: Mrs Lowry and Son, Wed 12 Feb, 7:30 pm at the Coore Memorial Hall. Doors open at 7:00 pm. Contact Stephen Elmer to reserve seats.

St Radekund's Coffee Morning in aid of Marie Curie, Sat 15 Feb, 10am - Noon at the Coore Memorial Hall. There will be information about Marie Curie and an opportunity to talk to a nurse. Donations for the raffle and cake stall would be appreciated. Everyone welcome! Contact Jacqueline Mainwaring-Taylor (Tel 748617) for details or to help at future events.

Book Club, Tue 25 Feb at 7:30 pm Contact Janet Crampton for details.

Kirkby Fleetham WI

New Members Welcome

All meetings start at 7.15pm in Kirkby Fleetham Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month.

13 Feb – Cookery Demonstration by Steve Marsh

12 Mar – Hear how the Street Angels keep members of the public safe

9 Apr – Treasures of the River Wear by Gary Bankhead

14 May - From Forensics to Crime Fiction by Susan Parry

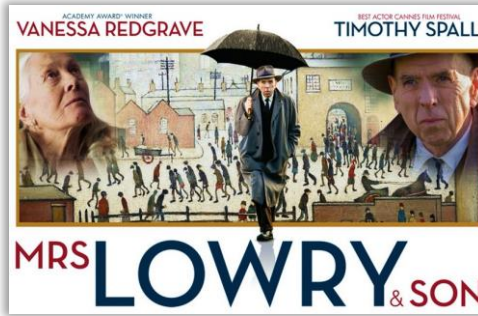
For more details contact Helen Lunn on 01609 748582 or email helenlunn123@gmail.com

Do you have any items for Scruton News?

please email stephen.elmer@scruton.net
The deadline for March news is Fri 21 Feb

Screen Scruton

MRS LOWRY AND SON is a delicate, intimate and amusing story of the brittle but vital relationship between L S Lowry and his bedridden, unhappy and controlling mother.



Wed 12 Feb, 7:30 pm at the Village Hall.

Doors open 7 pm, bring your own drinks & nibbles. No admission charge but donations welcome for the village hall. Contact: Stephen Elmer.

Scruton History Group

An 'inaugural' gathering of Scruton History Group is set for Friday 28 February, 10:30 am at the Old Rectory. We can have an informal discussion about Scruton history over coffee & biscuits. I will email anyone who has already expressed an interest but if you would like to attend then please let me know, it'll be helpful to know numbers.

Thank You Slot

Joan and Keith Walker would like to express their grateful thanks to all the people who assisted by so willingly transporting Joan to James Cook Hospital while Keith was an inpatient. They would also like to thank everyone for their 'get well' wishes which have been much appreciated. Keith is making a slow but steady recovery.

From the Parish Council

Speeding - An increase in speeding through the village has been noted in recent weeks and motorists are reminded of the importance of keeping strictly to the speed limit.

Pedestrian Safety - Please take extra care during winter months around Scruton and especially along Station Road to the Lane End where there is no pavement or street lighting. Remember:

Face the oncoming traffic. Where there is no pavement, keep to the right-hand side of the road, facing oncoming traffic. If you come to a sharp right-hand bend, it may be safer to cross the road so that oncoming traffic can see you.

Be visible at night. Wear or carry something light or fluorescent. Use reflective materials (armbands, sashes, waistcoats, jackets, footwear).

Look after the children. Young children should not be out alone on the pavement or road. Make sure your older children are aware of the need to take extra care at this time of year.

Finally. Put your mobile devices away!

Dog Fouling on Footpaths

Dog owners are reminded that it is a criminal offence if a person in charge of a dog fails to remove the faeces when their dog defecates on designated land.

Following an increase in complaints about dog fouling on footpaths and green spaces around the village, the Parish Council have requested Hambleton's Dog Warden Service to visit Scruton with the aim of enforcing the law which could result in a fixed penalty notice of £50, or up to £1,000 plus costs if an unpaid fine is referred to the magistrates court.

Parish Council Meetings 2020

Meetings are held at the Coore Memorial Hall, starting at 7.30 pm with a 10 minute open forum for parishioners. The public are welcome to attend.

- **Thursday 12 March**
- **Thursday 9 April (Annual Parish Meeting)**
- **Thursday 14 May (Annual General Meeting)**
- **Thursday 9 July**
- **Thursday 10 September**
- **Thursday 12 November**

Scruton Parish Council

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