

Scruton News



Scruton Parish Council

May 2020



Thank You Slots During the lockdown...

Scruton's Neighbourly Response – Thank you to all the volunteers who have collected prescriptions, shopped, posted letters, taken people to appointments, and solved other household problems. Special thanks to Janet Crampton who, with help from Stephen Elmer and Rachel Watkinson, organised and co-ordinated this list.

Coore Arms – Thank you to Mark ('call me Arkright') Brown for tasty take-away food and grocery supplies for Scruton and the surrounding area!

Eggs – Thank you to Mary Clarke for arranging Scruton's own 'egg-shed'!

Marie Curie - Marilyn Ewart sends a big thank you to all who responded to the Marie Curie Urgent Appeal which has raised £150. She says, 'Our specially trained nurses cannot leave their job because fundraisers are unable to support them. Scruton has already donated over 5 hours nursing.' Well done Scruton!

Teddy Bears – Thank you to everyone who placed teddy bears and soft toys in windows for the children.

Captain Tom – Thank you to the man who, at age 100, has inspired us all!

Newsletter Distributors – And not forgetting thanks to the volunteers who deliver Scruton News, especially during the lockdown.

VE Day 75th Anniversary

Our Local Church Council had planned to celebrate VE Day with a party in the village hall. The village still intends to have a traditional celebration once the restrictions are lifted. However, to mark the actual occasion on Friday 8th May, between 4pm - 6pm, you are invited to:

Stay-at-Home Street Party

Decorate your house in Red/White/Blue

Enjoy a picnic in your garden

Make a bit of noise with your neighbours



Sunshine over Scruton

Photo by Andy Dobson



'Bluebells ...like fairy gifts. A prize among the flowers.' (Anne Brontë). Interesting fact: half the world's bluebells are in the UK. Ed.



Farming News

New feature by Malcolm Barker

Seen from my tractor window, one of the few good things to come out of the lockdown is the number of families walking around the village. I hope this *family time* continues when the current crisis is past.

The wettest of winters has turned into a cold, dry, spring. Land which was too wet to walk upon, is now almost too dry to plough. After ploughing, there is a short opportunity of a day or so to harrow it down and get the crop drilled. If the land is left in 'the plough seam' for too long it dries and bakes in the sun, becoming like rocks which then have to be broken up by machinery. This is expensive with extra fuel used, time taken and wear and tear upon machinery. Notice how many fields have large bare patches where the crop has not germinated. In the autumn sown crops, this indicates the areas where water has stood and killed the underlying seed. In spring sown crops, this indicates where the seed has been too dry to germinate. Few fields have escaped with a full crop growing into the summer. But, with the wet winter and dry spring we should, on average, be happy.



Nature Notes

By Andy Johnston

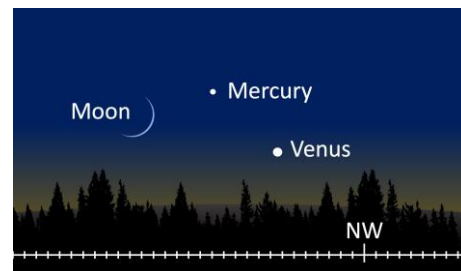
April is the month when winter gives way to summer. The winter thrushes have been replaced by house martins and swallows, of which we have one or two already. The 'lockdown' has coincided with spectacular weather, encouraging walkers out enjoying stunning blossom and flowers, especially tulips around the village. Greg and Janet Clapham, on a nature walk with Elliot, saw an otter at the Swale; and Billy Holmes, enjoying a bike ride, saw an osprey at Langton Bridge. Butterflies and bumble bees are very evident. During May swifts will return and we may even hear a cuckoo!



Scruton Sky at Night

by Peter Williams

Twilight begins to persist all night with no truly dark nights until the end of July. Now is a good time to see Noctilucent Clouds. These are thin, high clouds of ice crystals that catch the light of the sun, which even at midnight is not far below the northern horizon. These clouds are like silvery blue veils, often with interesting textures and patterns, low in the northern sky and visible an hour before and after midnight.



Mercury should be visible in the NNE sky from the 12th onwards, best seen on the evenings of 21st and 22nd May when it is within 2° of the much brighter Venus. Around 10pm on 24th, the thin crescent Moon appears just below both planets. Venus sets four hours after the Sun at the start of May, but by the end of the month it sets with the Sun.

From the Rectory

By Revd. Jenni Lane

As I sit at my desk watching the birds out of my study window, trying to retain a sense of humour and a sense of self, I reflect on the strangeness of the current situation we live in. Time has slowed. Even the 20 seconds I take to wash my hands lasts an eternity... But I found the following reflection: 20 seconds of soap and water give me a chance to slow down and be present with God; a moment in which to stand still and breathe, to turn on the tap and listen to the sound of the water. I begin:

'Our Father, who art in heaven ...' My hands do so much, and I take them for granted. Thank you, God, for my hands.

'Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.' The soap envelops my skin. It's a pleasant sensation. How full life is of these small sensations - little, unnoticed blessings.

'Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.' My mind unclenches a little. I face my wrong-doings and grievances squarely. 'Forgive us...' - 'Forgive me...' as I forgive...' They break apart a little. We are doing our best with our days, with our lives. Beloved children of God, all of us.

'For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever.' I rinse off the soap. 20 seconds have cleaned my hands, my mind and my heart.

Rev'd Jenni Lane can be contacted at the Rectory on 01609 631 122

Coore Memorial Hall AGM

A 'virtual' AGM will take place at **7:30 pm on Tuesday 19 May** using ZOOM video conference app. Please email Stephen Elmer for details if you wish to take part (stephen.elmer@scruton.net)

Countryside Litter Challenge

Pictured below are a toilet cistern left in Fence Dyke Lane and a pile of rubbish (100 plastic bottles & 80 cans) picked up by a villager in Station Road. Whilst fly tipping is a larger problem, we can all help to rid our local countryside of litter. If you are walking locally why not take a bag and a pair of gloves or 'grabber' to pick up litter?



Scruton Website

www.scruton.net - Relunched last month, the village website has been revamped with up-to-date & easy-to-navigate information. Check it out for the latest news and information! The website is sponsored by the Parish Council and its new look is thanks to much hard work by Richard Zealley (ReZolve I.T., East Grange House). The website has already received good feedback, but if you have any ideas or suggestions for additional content, please use the enquiry form on the Contact Page.

Help with Isolation

Alison Dodds writes: 'We all need to help one another in isolation and I came across an article at www.jw.org with some helpful suggestions. It is both practical, comforting and scriptural.'

Coronavirus Scams

Stay alert for scams by telephone, email and cold-callers. You can forward any suspicious emails to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSS) at: report@phishing.gov.uk Emails will be scanned automatically and criminal sites taken down.

The Humble Potato

Potato Challenge – Chris Snell will leave potato tubers and growing bags outside 6 The Parklands for villagers to help themselves and enter the Scruton Allotments Potato Challenge. You will need your own growing medium and if kept watered and fed, the potatoes should be ready by August, when, if it is possible to meet, you could enter your bag in the Allotments Competition to produce the biggest weight of potatoes.

Malcolm Barker - writes about his potatoes, 'I do not use chemical sprout suppressants on my potatoes. I keep them dormant throughout the winter by opening the potato shed door on frost free nights (closing it again if frost appears) which stops the potatoes from sprouting by natural means. As the weather has become warmer over the past few weeks, potatoes are now trying to push out sprouts to create new roots and stems. Anyone who has sprouting potatoes can keep the tubers firm by regularly removing the sprouts, by simply rubbing them off. This stops the potato from losing nutrients and moisture into the growing sprouts.'

Malcolm can supply sacks of potatoes: £7 for 25kg or £4 for 12.5kg. Varieties are limited this late in the season, call Malcolm on 01609 748 627 for details.

From the Parish Council

A thank you to parishioners for their thoughtful resilience during this crisis.

Dogs Still Fouling the Footpaths

Despite warnings issued by the Hambleton Dog Warden when he visited Scruton, some irresponsible dog walkers are still not cleaning up after their dogs. **You must clear away dog faeces and use the bins provided!**

Parish Council Meetings 2020

All Parish Council meetings are suspended until further notice.

Items for Scruton News?

Do you have any items of news, local interest, or ideas for an article or a regular column? Please email stephen.elmer@scruton.net

The deadline for the next edition is 23 May.

The editor reserves the right to make changes for editorial purposes.

Scruton Parish Council

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