

# Scruton News

Scruton Parish Council

Apr. 2021

[www.scruton.net](http://www.scruton.net)



"Now when the primrose makes a splendid show...to welcome spring" (W. Wordsworth)



## Scruton Allotments

The **Annual Potato Challenge** is back by popular demand, to see who can grow the biggest weight of potatoes from one tuber grown in a bag. It's free to enter, just pick up your potato and bag and have a go. We hope to have the grand weigh-in and barbeque in late August (Covid permitting) when there will be prizes for under 16s and over 16s. Collect your bag and potato now from outside 6 The Parklands, Scruton.



**Scruton Allotments Website** has been relaunched this year with a smart new look. The site includes a growing calendar, information about plots, news, blogs and a potted history of the Allotment Association. You will also find tips on how to grow potatoes in a bag and how to maximise your yield. Go to [www.scrutonallotments.org.uk](http://www.scrutonallotments.org.uk)

## Plant Stall Returns

Kirkby Fleetham's community plant stall will reopen on Saturday 27 March. The stall is outside The Willows (next door to The Black Horse Inn) and will run through April, May and most of June.



The stock will change on a daily basis with new annuals, perennials, herbs and vegetables all appearing as soon as they are ready for display. All proceeds go to improve the facilities at Kirkby Fleetham Village Hall.



## Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

Ian and Jean Milner spotted a ring-necked parakeet on their garden feeder, the first sighting of one in Scruton for a year or two. These are tropical birds, introduced into the London area in the 1970s. They form flocks characterised by continuous raucous calls. An invasive species, they are in conflict with our indigenous birds that nest in tree holes, and are viewed by many as being in need of culling.



Spring is finally here with daffodils, primulas and cherry blossom adding colour to the village and the imminent prospect of magnolia and blackthorn. Frog spawn is in many ponds and I managed to dig up my resident toad this week! The first chiffchaffs have returned and the odd sand martin has been seen at the Swale, while skylarks sing over arable fields. April will see the return of Summer migrants, with blackcaps, swallows and house martins leading the way. Swallows were always ahead of house martins, but in the last decade house martins often arrive first, possibly a response to climate change. Scruton has a sizeable breeding population of them and they are a constant sight in summer. Their African destination is still unknown, but with smaller tracking devices available, their secret may soon be discovered.

Recent sightings include a flock of 50 whooper swans, starling murmurations, a Hawker Hunter and a Boeing Globemaster III circling the village!

## Heritage Trains

Wensleydale Railway is making plans to reopen, Covid19 restrictions permitting. The plan is to reopen on the last weekend in May (Spring Bank Holiday) after which trains will run at the weekends and on Wednesdays. On running days, it's planned to have six trains a day from Bedale to Scruton. During the school holidays, trains will run every day except Mondays. Timetables will be published in due course.



## Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

Things have changed. During March the weather improved, and the fields have now dried sufficiently to plough, harrow and sow with spring cereals. There is a definite feeling that Spring has arrived. You will have noticed that the grass has become greener during the last week. The willow trees are now greening up with their silver green foliage. Sycamores will soon follow with oaks a couple of weeks later. Ash trees are almost always the last to grow their leaves and the first trees to lose them in the autumn.

During April I will need to cultivate the fields ready for growing fodder beet and potatoes. Fodder beet has become such an important crop on this farm because it provides a high volume of feed for my cows throughout the winter months.

This last winter, due to lockdown, my potato sales have been very poor. My customers obeyed the rules and stayed at home (I certainly don't blame them) and I often found myself standing alone and freezing, in an empty car park. I devote around 1600 hours each year to growing, grading, bagging and selling potatoes but last year I wish I hadn't bothered.



## From the Rectory

by Revd. Jenni Lane

Church Services will resume at Easter with a service on Good Friday (2 April) and Holy Communion on Easter Sunday (4 April).

Zoom services, for those who prefer, will be at 3 pm on Good Friday and 2 pm on Easter Sunday. Anyone who wishes to join the Zoom services should email Paul Chubb at:

[paul.anthony.chubb@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.anthony.chubb@btinternet.com)

May everyone have a blessed and happy Easter.



## St Radegund's Church

The church continues to remain open for private prayer. Covid requirements to wear a mask, sanitise hands and maintain social distancing still apply. The upcoming services all begin at 9:30 am except where stated:

<b>2 Apr</b>	Good Friday (1:30pm)	Jenni
<b>4 Apr</b>	Holy Communion	Jenni
<b>11 Apr</b>	Morning Worship	Paul
<b>18 Apr</b>	Morning Worship	Paul
<b>25 Apr</b>	Morning Worship	Paul
<b>2 May</b>	Holy Communion	Jenni
<b>9 May</b>	Holy Communion	Jenni

## Baby Massage & Yoga

Nicki Walsh (chartered physiotherapist) is offering baby massage, baby yoga and toddler yoga classes from 14 April at Kirkby Fleetham village hall. For details call Nicki on 07570 208 184, email: [hello@baby-wellness.co.uk](mailto:hello@baby-wellness.co.uk) or go to [www.baby-wellness.co.uk/](http://www.baby-wellness.co.uk/)



## Scruton Sky at Night

by Peter Williams

With the change to British Summer Time, the nights are getting lighter and the days hopefully warmer! This means that viewing the night sky requires you to go out much later. The main event in April is the full Moon on the night of the 27th, which is another in the series of Supermoons continuing from last year. The Moon's orbit around the Earth is not circular, and every so often the orbit brings it closer to the Earth at the time of a full moon. We refer to this event as a Supermoon, when it can appear to be up to 14% bigger and 30% brighter than it would be ordinarily. The Moon will be directly south at midnight, and will be very bright, probably blocking out most other stars.

Nasa's Perseverance lander has been returning some amazing photos of Mars, and probably the 'Ingenuity' helicopter will have had its first flight by the time you read this. In recognition of the first powered flight on Earth, the little helicopter actually carries a small patch of fabric from the wings of the Wright brothers' Kitty Hawk flying machine from its first flight in 1903.



## Recycle Marketplace

### Doll's House Needs a Good Home -

Made by a doting granddad but now long outgrown. Free to collect (first come, first served). Please call Mary Young on 01609 748 599.

### Heavy Duty Pillar Drill -

Available for collection in return for a small donation to charity. Some wear but quite serviceable. Email Stephen Elmer for details [stephen.elmer@scruton.net](mailto:stephen.elmer@scruton.net)

## New Parish Councillor

**John Thompson** has been co-opted to fill the vacancy created when Phil Langan resigned in February. John moved to Scruton in 1996 and says, "It has been a fantastic place to raise a family; it is a nice village populated with nice people. Joining the Parish Council will hopefully allow me to contribute in a small way to maintain that niceness."

## From the Parish Council

**RAF Leeming** - A number of parishioners have complained about the noise and disturbance caused by the increased flying activity from RAF Leeming. The Parish Council plans to invite a representative from the airfield to attend the next council meeting (via Zoom) so that parishioners can directly offer up their own views on the subject.

**Solar Power** - The construction of the Solar Power Station at Kirkby Fleetham is now at a sufficiently advanced stage for observers to gain a good insight as to what the Scruton project will look like if it receives planning approval. Parishioners are urged to either drive past the site or else walk along the banks of the river Swale between the villages to see for themselves what a monstrously intrusive effect this project would have on our village.

On the same subject, SPC is still awaiting a formal response to the submission it put to Lightrock as part of the consultative process. Parishioners will be updated as soon as this has been received.

**Scruton Parish Council** meetings are no longer suspended. See below for details on upcoming meetings.

## Scruton Parish Council

Chris Barron (Clerk)	01609 748315	<a href="mailto:ronald.barron@btinternet.com">ronald.barron@btinternet.com</a>
Simon Britton	07866 721146	<a href="mailto:sbconfidential@georgefwhite.co.uk">sbconfidential@georgefwhite.co.uk</a>
Trevor Howe	01609 748355	<a href="mailto:tdhscruton@gmail.com">tdhscruton@gmail.com</a>
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Mike Widmer	01609 748392	<a href="mailto:mwstonemole@gmail.com">mstonemole@gmail.com</a>

## Hambleton District Councillor

Cllr. Brian Phillips [cldr.brian.phillips@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.brian.phillips@hambleton.gov.uk)

## North Yorkshire County Councillor

Cllr. Annabel Wilkinson [cldr.annabel.wilkinson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.annabel.wilkinson@northyorks.gov.uk)

## Parish Council Meetings 2021

Scruton's **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on 8 April via Zoom. Details to follow on Network Scruton.

The Parish Council **Annual General Meeting** will be held in May. Details to follow.

### Copy deadline for the next edition is 23 April

Please email items to: [stephen.elmer@scruton.net](mailto:stephen.elmer@scruton.net)

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



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