

# Scruton News

Scruton Parish Council

August 2021



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

## Village Picnic!

The mood was upbeat but cautious on 21 July, when the Fete Committee met and decided to hold a **Village Picnic** instead of the normal fete this year.



- The picnic will be on Scruton Playing Field, **Saturday 4 Sept from 4 pm.**
- Villagers will be asked to bring their own food & drink.
- *Everyone* is welcome but it will only be publicised within the parish.
- There will be cake and produce stalls, children's games and a tombola.
- A Grand Prize Raffle will be drawn on the day. Tickets on sale shortly.

**Volunteers** are needed to help with the tombola. Call Janet Crampton (748 321)

**Donations** - are required for raffle prizes (bottles always welcome). Call John Mainwaring-Taylor on 748 617



## Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

I don't want to spoil the party, but locally August can be the wettest month. Last year was a prime example, but the good news is that 2021 is looking like the mirror image of 2020. Last year's hot dry spring resulted in poor crops, but this year after a cold wet spring, the crops are looking far better. My first crop of silage is almost complete and I am currently baling the final 15 fields.



Shown above is my field of herbal leys (grassland comprising legume, herb and grass species) grown as an experiment. Without using sprays or fertiliser, they have produced many bales of herbal hay and silage. The insects and bees in particular have benefitted from the millions of flowers. Next winter, if my cattle and sheep choose to eat the hay and silage from this crop, I will count it as a success.

## Peter Hedley

The SPFA would like to express our thanks to Peter Hedley on behalf of the village. Peter stepped down from the Playing Fields Committee earlier this year having served since the late 1970s. Peter has been a willing and active member of the committee throughout this time. Enjoy your retirement Peter.



## Scruton Station Surprise Visitor

The Heritage Train from Bedale to Scruton is proving a big success and will move to a 4 day service in August.

On the first day of running, passenger Barry Johnson and his wife were on board (pictured below). He told us that his grandfather and great-grandfather had both worked on the line.



His grandfather was Aubrey Johnson, a Railway Clerk living at Scruton Station in 1911. His great grandfather was Francis Johnson (shown inset above), Scruton Station Master from 1908 who died in post in 1916 whilst his sons, Aubrey and Percy were away during WW1.

Barry and his wife were given a VIP tour of our Station and were delighted with its restoration. They were pleased with the information we gave them about Aubrey and Francis and will return with other family members.



## Thankful Ale... Cheers Chalky!

We have so far sold over 100 cases with all profits going to the Village Hall for use on community events. Free delivery within the local area. For details or to place an order, call Richard Burton-White (Chalky) 07545 123 856, via Facebook Messenger or on the Village WhatsApp Group.



## Kirkby Fleetham Women's Institute

Why not come along and enjoy tea and cake and see what Kirkby Fleetham WI has to offer? We meet regularly at Kirkby Fleetham Village Hall, usually on the second Thursday of the month at 7.15pm. Members come from Kirkby Fleetham and the surrounding villages. In pre-covid times we welcomed a wide variety of speakers.

Future plans include a musical evening with Mal Watson, a talk about Joy's Gin, and of course a celebration to mark our 100th Birthday. You don't need to be able to bake or sew, but if you enjoy a sociable evening and a good supper, do come along. Our next meeting is on **Thursday 19th August.**



## Scruton Sky at Night

by Peter Williams

Over the past few years, Jupiter has been low in the UK skies, as it tracked along the most southerly part of the ecliptic. The ecliptic is the rough, broad band through the skies in which the Sun, planets and Moon generally progress. Jupiter is now gaining altitude and will reach opposition on 19 August. In astronomy, opposition is when a planet or other body is in the opposite part of the sky to the Sun. At such times, planets appear brighter and larger. In Jupiter's case, it shines at mag. -2.9 and through the eyepiece of a telescope is large enough to present some impressive detail such as the various bands of cloud in the upper atmosphere.



Binoculars with magnification of around 10x will provide views of the gas giant's biggest moons, Ganymede, Europa, Callisto and Io. Full Moon will be on 22 August, and will be just S-SW of Jupiter. It should be an interesting sight.

Deadline for the next edition is **23 Aug**

Email: [stephen.elmer@scruton.net](mailto:stephen.elmer@scruton.net)

(The editor reserves the right to make changes for editorial purposes)

Services commence at 9:30 am. Hand sanitising is required, face masks & social distancing are at your discretion.

- 1 Aug** Morning Worship Paul
- 8 Aug** Holy Communion Lesley Ashton
- 15 Aug** Holy Communion Jenni
- 22 Aug** Morning Worship Paul
- 29 Aug** Holy Communion Jenni
- 5 Sep** Holy Communion William

## Our New Lych Gates



At our first village wedding since the pandemic, Lily Bristow married Hamish Sampson at St. Radegund's Church on Saturday 10 July. Lily is from Great Langton and Hamish is from Thorpe Underwood (near Harrogate), though they presently live in London. In line with an old village tradition, our new lych gates were tied with ribbons and village children gathered to receive coins duly thrown to them by the groom before the gates could be untied.



David Harrison is pictured by the lych gates he made for St. Radegund's Church which were paid for with money raised from various village quiz evenings and events.



## Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

Most of us are familiar with the animals that visit our gardens, but some are less visible. Hedgehogs, which are not uncommon in the village, can be identified as being present by their black, slug-like droppings. Toads and frogs are common but rarely seen.

There are grass snakes in North Yorks but I have never seen one; if anyone should spot one please let me know. Bats are commonplace just now with at least eleven species in our parish. They have wonderful names such as Noctule, Brown long-eared, Common & Soprano Pipistrelle, Whiskered, Brandt's and Daubenton's.



Noctule Bat



Brown long-eared Bat

Young bats are starting to fly and it is not uncommon for them to enter houses. Bats are a protected species and need careful handling. We are fortunate to have Dave Long (07748 961 513) in the village who is licensed to handle bats and is happy to assist if you have a problem. Recently I was almost hit on the head by a low flying swift. As it manoeuvred past me it 'clapped' its wings audibly. Apparently this is an alarm call to other swifts and is depicted in Neolithic cave paintings in South Africa.

## Thank you Slot

Marilyn and Elizabeth would like to thank everyone who supported the 'Pop up Stall' on the Village Green on 3 & 4 July in aid of Marie Curie Care, which raised £900 to provide 45 hours of end of life nursing care.

## From the Parish Council

**Ham Hall Lane** - The Highways Agency have identified the location of the drainage pipe from Ham Hall Lane and believe they have located the blockage. The remedy for the blockage is currently being explored. This should mean that flooding should not occur again this winter.

**Station Road Footpath** - Mr. Bill Raine has agreed in principal to the proposed footpath from Scruton station to the A684. SPC have so far applied unsuccessfully for three government grants and now need to consider some fund raising. If you know of anyone who may like to contribute towards the footpath with finance, materials or labour please let us know. We are still exploring other potential grants.

**Dog Mess** – There is a problem with some dog owners not picking up their dogs' mess on the footpath that runs from Beech Close to the cut by Tony Hoare's allotment (parallel to Common Lane). The amount of dog faeces means the grass cutters cannot do their job; if you want the grass cut, then please pick up your dog's mess!

**Volunteers Required** - Graham Dodds has kindly donated 500 crocus bulbs for the village green, so we will be asking for volunteers in the autumn to help plant them. Jan Hobson is asking for some wild flower patches to be sown around the village so once again later in the year we will be seeking some volunteers to help prepare, sow and maintain the wildflowers. Volunteers are also needed to help tidy the snicket/footpath opposite the village green leading to Beech Close. Please contact SPC if you can help.

**STOP PRESS – QUIZ NIGHT** at the Coore Arms on **Sunday 29 August** in aid of Village Fireworks! Tickets £12.50 each, to include food with beer or glass of wine (175ml) Details will follow on Network Scruton

## 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>
Syd Nye (Chair)	01609 748464	<a href="mailto:syd@nyeref.co.uk">syd@nyeref.co.uk</a>
John Thompson	01609 748067	<a href="mailto:jonnyjig@hotmail.com">jonnyjig@hotmail.com</a>
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 2021/22

Subject to Covid restrictions, meetings are normally held on the second Thursday of alternate months at the Coore Memorial Hall, starting at 7:30 pm with a 10 minute open forum for the public who are welcome to attend.

### 2021

09 September

11 November

### 2022

13 January

10 March

14 April (Annual Parish Meeting)

12 May (AGM)