

# Scruton News

Scruton Parish Council

June 2021

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



## Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

This is the month for sheep shearing and hopefully the making of silage and the best hay, if the weather permits. May has been wet but the rain was desperately needed and the grass is finally growing.

During the many hours of potato selling, at auction marts, throughout the winter months I have taken to filling my time in by making oil paintings. Painting has been a hobby since I left school but I took a break from it for 13 years whilst the children were young. I eventually plucked up the courage to take my easel so that I could paint whilst waiting for customers. I expected to be mocked but found, instead, that people would look over my shoulders and watch as I painted. I started with landscapes but have ventured to paintings of my family and farm animals. Most of the cattle and sheep paintings and a few of the landscapes are of Scruton.

I am currently looking out for old black and white photographs of working horses so that I can produce coloured paintings from them.



Scruton from the south west (2017)

*Editor's Note – Malcolm's paintings can be seen at [www.malcolmbarker.com](http://www.malcolmbarker.com) or on Facebook at Malcolm Barker Paintings. The website was created by ReZolve (Richard Zealley) in Scruton.*

## Pop-up Stall on Village Green

There will be a pop-up stall on the Village Green in front of The Lodge on 3 & 4 July between 10 am – 4 pm. Plants and produce will be on sale in aid of Marie Curie Care.

## Solar Farm Updates

**Planning Application** - has now been submitted to Hambleton DC and will be available soon to view online at [www.hambleton.gov.uk/planning](http://www.hambleton.gov.uk/planning) where you should also find details about the public consultation and decision process. Alternatively, the planning documents, surveys and reports can also be viewed at [www.scrutonsolarfarm.com](http://www.scrutonsolarfarm.com).

**Walking the Site** - Two representatives from Scruton Parish Council (Chairman Syd Nye and Cllr. John Thompson) met with Chris Sowerbutts (Lightrock Power) in Scruton on 25 May to walk across the proposed site. A number of solar farm questions were discussed and it is hoped that this will lead to a new phase of engagement and dialogue between Lightrock and SPC.

**Public Meeting** - Lightrock Ltd. hosted an open public meeting on Zoom on Wednesday 26 May. Some 28 people logged in for the 2 hour meeting where Chris Sowerbutts presented an outline of the finalised design, including some computer generated 'photomontages' of what the scheme would look like from certain specific locations. Bluefield Solar, who are financing the project and who will be responsible for the long term running and operation of the site, were represented at the meeting by Neil Wood. Members of the public asked a wide range of questions about various aspects of the solar farm plans. A full set of Q&As from the meeting has been published on the website at [www.scrutonsolarfarm.com](http://www.scrutonsolarfarm.com)

**Community Benefit Fund** – There is no statutory requirement for a 'Community Levy' to be paid but Lightrock confirmed that a 'Community Benefit Fund' of £10k would be set aside at the start of the project. A number of ideas for how the fund could be used have already been raised but further suggestions would be welcomed by Lightrock. It is intended that suitable projects relating to the environment, education and ecology would be funded directly (and not via the local authority or Parish Council).

*Scruton News encourages our readers to review the planning application and all Q&As online, and to take part in Hambleton DC's consultation process.*



## Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

For the first ten days of May the dry northerly airflow and frosts continued so that early nesting birds failed and the dawn and evening chorus stopped. As I write (24 May) I have still to see a young blackbird. This cold, dry spell has had a huge impact on plant growth and germination. Then on the 9 May the wind changed to the south and brought significant rainfall and warm weather. On the following day a flood of house martins, swallows, swifts and a hobby arrived to feed over the village. Unfortunately the warmth has been very short lived and a return to cool, northerly airflow, punctuated by periods of heavy rain, has become the norm.

The only two plants which have really appreciated this weather have been daisies and dandelions! The recent Swale flood has inundated some of the sand martin and oystercatcher nests, but they still have time to nest again.



Many early summer flowers such as lupins, aquilegia and peonies are only just coming into bloom, as is the May blossom. I trust this will be the harbinger of warm weather and the prospect of 'casting one's clouts'\*. It is good to see that our resident swallows, house martins and swifts have returned and are busy nesting. Hopefully June will be 'flaming', with trees in full leaf and roses blooming.

\* 'Ne'er cast a clout 'til May be out'. Clout is derived from the Old English for cloth or clothing. May could either refer to the month or to the hawthorn (May Tree) in bloom. In any event, a reminder not to be too hasty to discard your winter woollies! – Ed.

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

Please email items to:

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

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

Marie Curie  
Cancer Care



## St Radegund's Church

Covid requirements to wear a mask, sanitise hands and maintain social distancing apply until further notice. The upcoming services all start at 9:30 am.

13 Jun	Morning Worship	Paul
20 Jun	Holy Communion	Jenni
27 Jun	Morning Worship	Paul
4 Jul	Holy Communion	Jenni



## Scruton Station Reopens!

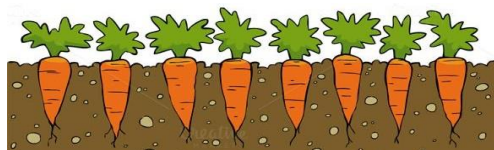
The Wensleydale Railway are reopening services between Bedale and Scruton commencing on Saturday 29 May. Six trains will run each day over the Bank Holiday weekend (Sat, Sun & Mon), Thereafter, services will run on Wed, Sat & Sun each week until the summer holidays. Tickets must be booked online in advance. For bookings and further details go to:

[www.wensleydale-railway.co.uk](http://www.wensleydale-railway.co.uk)

**Scruton needs more volunteers** - to be in costume (no role playing required!) to guide passengers and give information about Scruton. No experience is necessary and training will be given including Personal Rail Safety. If interested contact Keith and Joan Walker on 748 458 or email [keithandjoanwalker@gmail.com](mailto:keithandjoanwalker@gmail.com)

## Scruton Allotments

A vacant plot has become available unexpectedly. It is already stocked with fruit trees and raspberry canes; there is also a shed and compost bins. Call Chris Snell on 07767 357173 for further details.

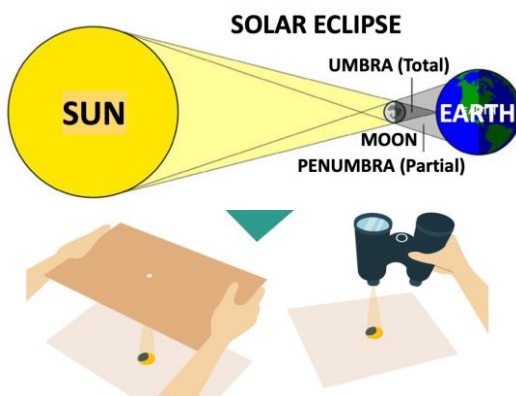


## Scruton Sky at Night

by Peter Williams

Lighter nights make for difficult viewing, and some of my suggested viewings of late have been thwarted by cloudy skies. Hopefully the main event in June should not cause a problem, and this is the **partial solar eclipse on 10 June**. This will be the largest eclipse in the UK for the last 6 years, and around a third of the sun should be obscured. First contact is around 10am and last contact about 12.30am. Hopefully we may have clear skies for the event.

A safe way to view the eclipse is to project an image onto a card using either a pinhole in a card or binoculars held in the hand (see below). Check out full instructions online if you are unsure.



**Important – DO NOT look at the sun directly, and absolutely NEVER through the binoculars!**



## Wendy's Wish

[www.wendyswish.co.uk](http://www.wendyswish.co.uk)

Thanks to everyone who donated cloths & clothing. Wendy's Wish has thus far collected about 25 bags. Clothing gets sorted & separated for wearability or ragging and old towels/bed linen etc. are also recycled (you may prefer to send 'good clothes' to the charity shop). Further donations are still welcome; contact Janet Crampton on 748 321.

## From the Parish Council

**New Chair** - Councillor Nye has succeeded Councillor Widmer as Chair.

**RAF Leeming** - SPC are grateful to Wing Commander Guy Lefroy for attending the AGM and explaining the flight path for operational aircraft. For military aircraft to take off and land safely, they have a pre-determined approach which involves flying close to Scruton. Aircraft also need to maintain power (which is noisy) to keep safely airborne when turning. Visiting aircraft will be briefed to avoid flying over the village as much as possible.

**Ham Hall Lane** - NYCC have written to all stakeholders/landowners requesting a survey of the drainpipe from Ham Hall Lane to identify the blockages which are causing the flooding. SPC believe the most cost-effective and permanent solution would be the installation of a new drain and they are communicating this to the other stakeholders.

**Planning** – SPC have a responsibility to protect the integrity of the parish with regard to planning applications. Those most affected by an application get notified by Hambleton DC before SPC are informed; if you think there are any pertinent factors that the SPC should know, please inform the Parish Clerk in writing and a Councillor will visit.

**Bus-stop Books** - SPC will install two cabinets in the brick bus shelter to enable Janet Crampton to set up a book lend/swap initiative. Parishioners are encouraged to donate and recycle good condition books. Look out for further details on Network Scruton.

**Car Charging Point** – suggestions are invited regarding the desirability and location of an electric car charging point. Contact the Clerk with ideas.

**Dial-a-bus** – NYCC will pilot an 'on-demand' bus service in the Ripon, Bedale & Masham area in July. For more information go to NYCC website [www.northyorks.gov.uk/YorBus](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/YorBus)

## 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

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	2022
8 July	13 January
9 September	10 March
11 November	14 April (Annual Parish Meeting)
	12 May (Annual General Meeting)

	Website: <a href="http://www.scruton.net">www.scruton.net</a>		Email: <a href="mailto:stephen.elmer@scruton.net">stephen.elmer@scruton.net</a>
	Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/ScrutonVillage">@ScrutonVillage</a>		Facebook: <a href="#">Scruton Community Page</a>