

# Scruton News

Scruton Parish Council

Mar. 2021



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

## Solar Farm Questionnaire

Scruton Parish Council thanks all parishioners who completed the questionnaire. A total of 190 forms were distributed, of which 107 were returned by the deadline (8 forms returned after the deadline were not counted). The individual votes are as follows:

In favour of the solar farm	69
Against the solar farm	118
Undecided	17
No view or abstentions	5
Total opinions received	209

This now gives SPC a clear picture of the feeling of the village, which will be conveyed to Lightrock Power Ltd.

There was also a large number of strong and well-reasoned comments in the responses, both for and against the scheme. These have been noted and will play an important part in the consultations with Lightrock. Printed copies of the comments are available from the clerk.

Approval of the proposed solar farm is in the hands of Hambleton Planning Department, and the scheme could still go ahead in spite of any number of objections. For this reason, SPC will work closely with Lightrock to ensure that the best possible outcome is achieved. Nine key points have been identified, which will form the basis of future discussions:

- 1 Insufficient information on boundary lines.
- 2 Insufficient information on screening detail and illustrations of panels.
- 3 Further detail on traffic volume and contingency if road closed (flooding).
- 4 Noise, lighting and disturbance during the construction period.
- 5 Future security issues resulting from the close proximity to Scruton village.
- 6 Benefits to the Parish.
- 7 Cumulative impact of the scheme allowing Leeming Industrial estate to encroach towards Scruton.
- 8 Complexity/uncertainty over which company is responsible for ensuring terms and conditions are complied with once the site is up and running.
- 9 Veracity of the information contained in the Lightrock publicity pamphlets.

Parishioners will be kept informed of developments. In the meantime please contact any parish councillor if you wish to raise further points.

## Scruton Solar Farm Consultation – Q & A

Lightrock Power Ltd. thanks those who took part in the community Zoom meetings on 3rd & 4th February. The company has listened to feedback and published the Land Classification report on their website; the consultation period was extended to 22 February, and although this has now passed, you can still contact the company with questions or concerns by email: [scruton@lightrockpower.com](mailto:scruton@lightrockpower.com) or tel. 01142 866 217

A full write up of all the Q & A is also available at [www.scrutonsolarfarm.com](http://www.scrutonsolarfarm.com)



## Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

I usually know when a ewe is soon to give birth. She licks her lips and talks to her unborn lambs in a gentle bleat, which is in contrast to the loud, harsh bleat when shouting for food. On a winter night, whilst grading potatoes, I listen to the sheep in the adjacent shed and can usually hear if any are close to lambing. For over 45 years I have delivered thousands of lambs from small quadruplets to a large single lamb which weighed 21 pounds at birth and took an hour of hard work to deliver!



Lambing shed on a winter night

Ideally the unborn lamb will present with two front legs and its nose appearing first. I grab the legs and ease the lamb out into the world. This can normally be done within a minute or so. Problems start when one or both front legs are back, or if the head is pointing back inside the sheep. I then insert my hand inside the uterus and reposition the lamb for delivery. Problems can be compounded by multiple births when I have to sort out a tangle of two heads and four legs and decide which legs belong to which head so that I am not pulling two lambs simultaneously.

The hardest and most risky delivery is the breach birth where the back of the lamb presents first. Delivery must be done quickly, so that the lamb doesn't drown inside its mother once the umbilical cord ruptures. I hold the lamb's back legs and pull it backwards from its mother. Any air is squeezed from the lamb's lungs and I have often had to give artificial respiration to keep the lamb alive.



## Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

No doubt, during the recent cold weather, many of you will have attracted good numbers of wild birds to your feeders. However not all birds come into gardens but will rely on what food is available out in the fields. Some of our local farmers are involved in the Countryside Stewardship schemes; here areas are planted with wildflowers, mustard, millet, sunflower or kale. This provides birds, mammals, insects, bees and butterflies with an all year round supply of food and enhances the environment.

When visiting one scheme, I was surprised at both the diversity of birds present and their numbers. In addition to the usual garden birds, there were linnets, chaffinches, goldfinches, greenfinches and tree sparrows. Also in smaller numbers, bullfinches, yellowhammers, reed buntings, corn buntings and grey partridge.



Yellowhammer



Grey Partridge

We still have huge flocks of starlings feeding on the stubble fields surrounding the village with redwing and fieldfare, all of which will head back to Europe towards the end of March. The dawn/evening chorus is just beginning with song thrushes and mistle thrushes leading the way. Things to look out for are: frog spawn, chiffchaffs any day soon, and white tailed eagles (yes, really!). Four young eagles were released on the Isle of Wight last spring and two took up residence in our region soon after and have been seen locally.



I reckon many of us were hoping that the latest roadmap issued by the Government would provide a light at the end of what has been a very long tunnel. It is a message of cautious hope. What immediate implications this has on our local churches has yet to be fully explored, but it is wonderful and welcome news to many wedding couples who have had to postpone their nuptials a number of times.

It is also hopeful news for the members of our communities who have found the isolation and fear of the pandemic difficult to endure. May we travel hopefully and faithfully into the future.

## St Radegund's Church

St Radegund's Church remains open for private prayer, but all churches in the Benefice of the Lower Swale are closed for public services of worship.

For details of how to join others for online prayer, worship, study and community life, go to: [www.lowerswalechurches.org.uk](http://www.lowerswalechurches.org.uk)

To join in the weekly services on Zoom call Jenni Lane on 01609 631 122 or email: [jennilane2013@btinternet.com](mailto:jennilane2013@btinternet.com)

## Increased RAF Flying

RAF Leeming is hosting various multi-national aircraft, which may require some low flying and night exercises, continuing until 18 March.

Scruton Parish Council is sending a letter of protest to RAF Leeming about noise, activity and overflying above Scruton. The council also urges residents to contact RAF Leeming's Media & Communications Officer, Lynn Dunne at: [lynn.dunne456@mod.gov.uk](mailto:lynn.dunne456@mod.gov.uk)

The skies are gradually getting lighter in the evening with the Spring Equinox on 20 March – equal day and night, and the change to BST on 28 March when the clocks go forward one hour.

On the morning of 10 March, around 6.30 am, there is a quadruple formation of a thin crescent Moon and the planets Mercury, Jupiter and Saturn, grouped together, very low in the South East sky. Pluto is also there, but not visible, and also Venus which will probably be too close to the rising sun to be visible. It is quite unusual to have this many planets grouped together.

There is interesting news concerning the successful landing on Mars, of NASA's Perseverance Rover. There is an amazing video on YouTube of the actual descent when the parachute opens and the sky crane gently lowers the rover onto the surface. Expect to see the release of more photos and videos, and even the actual sound of wind on Mars! There will also be the trial flight of the Ingenuity 'helicopter'.



## Letters to the Editor

**Suzanne Cooke** has written to ask that people DO NOT feed her horse. The horse is in good health and does not require any intervention, which could lead to colic, ulcers or other illness. Anyone who ignores the 'do not feed' sign could be liable for vet fees and may be reported to the police.



## Garden Waste

The collection of green bins has resumed. Subscriptions for 2021/22 are £40 per bin. Applications and further details at: [www.hambleton.gov.uk](http://www.hambleton.gov.uk)

**New Diagnostic Hub** - The Friarage will benefit from a £1 million investment to kick-start the development of a new diagnostic hub, providing state-of-the-art facilities for urology and endoscopy procedures. This is the first phase of a £5 million scheme; work is expected to begin in Summer 2021.

**STRIVE Education Centre** - Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Friarage, who will donate over £300,000, the Friarage will also benefit from a new medical education centre expected to open in April 2021.

The development includes an immersive simulation teaching space, library, three teaching rooms, computer room, common room, offices and a video wall. This will be supported by a new clinical administration block, located near Sir Robert Ogden Macmillan Centre.

## From the Parish Council

A Scruton Parish Council meeting took place on the evening of Thursday 25 February via Zoom. Various matters were discussed, including the solar farm proposal and the Ham Hall Lane flooding problem.

In respect of the solar farm, the Council reported that it had submitted a paper to Lightrock Power Ltd. as part of the consultation process, and was now awaiting a response after which further discussion will take place. Parishioners will be kept informed of developments and invited to comment.

A meeting is to be arranged with the Highways Dept. in order to progress a resolution of the Ham Hall Lane flooding, with a view to remedying this problem as soon as possible.

The Council continues to strive to ensure that the village is being kept in the best possible order.

## Parish Council Meetings 2021

**All Parish Council meetings are suspended until further notice.**

## Do you have any items for Scruton News?

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

**The deadline for the next edition is 23 Mar.**

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

## Scruton Parish Council

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