

# Scruton News

Scruton Parish Council

May 2021



## From the Parish Council

Plans to construct a solar power station on the outskirts of Scruton are expected to be submitted to Hambleton District Council in the next couple of weeks.

As part of the consultative process in February, your Parish Council wrote to the agents for this scheme, Lightrock Power, expressing a number of concerns and asking for more clarity on certain points. Some two months later, SPC has still not received a response.

Lightrock Power has simply refused to engage in any meaningful conversation which is in direct contravention of proper consultative procedure. There is a simple reason for this - Lightrock were asked some pretty direct questions which will have been extremely difficult to answer without the inclusion of an admission that the promotional literature issued in January was a deliberate attempt to mislead and misrepresent. For many Parishioners, the installation shown on the Lightrock Pamphlet will be the only point of reference as to how a solar farm might look upon completion. Readers of the pamphlet are entitled to believe it is how the Scruton installation will look when complete. Its benign appearance is designed to encourage support for the scheme and minimise opposition.

One of the questions SPC asked of Lightrock was for confirmation that its brochure is a true representation of the Scruton plan and that the Scruton project would not end up looking like the nearby Kirkby Fleetham installation, which is of grotesque design and although appropriate in its current location, would be totally unacceptable and inappropriate situated so close to Scruton Village. As stated earlier, SPC is still awaiting a response.

## New Trees

**Elizabeth Davies** reports that four new trees have been planted in the churchyard, all donated as a contribution to help offset climate change. Pictured here is Prunus Pandora.



## Local Elections

**Thursday 6 May 7am – 10pm.** The Coore Memorial Hall will be the local polling station for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorks.



## Scruton Sky at Night

by Peter Williams

After spending the winter months of 2020-21 as a 'Morning Star', Venus will emerge into the post-sunset western sky as an 'Evening Star' from April. It will be blazing at mag. -3.9 by May and even brighter in June/July as it gets closer to Mars. After a dazzling summer, it will sink earlier each month and by December it will slim to a crescent as Earth and Venus get close.

Just after sunset on 12/13 May, there will be a crescent Moon, Venus and Mercury low on the NW horizon. I like to watch for the thin crescent 'young Moon', and there is a sort of badge of honour among keen-eyed moongazers. On 12 May, there will be a challenge to spot a 1% lit crescent Moon in the post-sunset sky around 9pm, with the planet Venus just 1° above. An easier sight will occur 24 hours later when a 3.5% lit crescent Moon is visible just next to Mercury, and above Venus. However you'll probably need binoculars to see this spectacle at its best.



## Letters to the Editor

**Peter Williams** writes, I wish to complain about the section in the April newsletter headed 'From the Parish Council'. The use of the words 'monstrously intrusive effect' is very biased and not what we should expect from the PC. I'm afraid that once again, a minority viewpoint is being coerced upon the residents possibly to influence any future land proposals.

**Marion Largent** asks that dog owners are reminded to keep their dogs under control. She says: 'My scary experience of walking back home in the field at the back of Common Lane was around seven dogs off the lead running all over the crops bounding straight for me.'

**Robert Raine** also writes about dogs on farmland, 'Once again I have seen two black dogs running across fields with no sign of the owner. People were also just walking across the fields where there is no footpath.'

**Editor's Note.** Please note there are no public rights of way beyond the end of Common Lane. However, many villagers enjoy the use of these footpaths with kind permission from the landowner. Thanks are offered to responsible dog owners who abide by the Country Code.

## Solar Farm Update

The information below was provided to Scruton News by Lightrock/Bluefield.

**Lightrock and Bluefield** - offer their thanks for the extensive feedback and helpful discussion with the community over recent months, which has helped to shape the project that is now being fine-tuned for submission in May. The full set of Q&As are on the Community Updates section of the website at [www.scrutonsolarfarm.com](http://www.scrutonsolarfarm.com).

We also thank everyone for your patience while we've progressed the technical design to present you a much fuller picture of the proposals.

**Reduction in size** - Early consultation highlighted a key area of concern as the size of the scheme and its proximity to the village. Through the design process, we've been able to remove two entire fields, reducing the size by some 35 acres.

**Photomontages and technical info** - As requested, we have commissioned some photo renders of the project which we will be sharing, along with the other technical documents requested by the community, in the next couple of weeks. These documents will all be posted in the Community Updates section of the website (see URL above)

**Ecology** - Many residents have expressed a keen interest in the project's ecological benefits and we're pleased to report that the RSPB has joined as a project partner to advise on enhancing the ecological opportunity, leading here to a Biodiversity Net Gain of over 100%.

**Community Meeting** - As the designs have now been finalised prior to submission, we'd like to invite you to attend a community update meeting, the details of which we will coordinate sending out through Network Scruton.



## Wendy's Wish

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

Janet Crampton has started an appeal for unwanted clothing (suitable for recycling but must be clean) in memory of Wendy Reed (nee Harker) who died of a rare eye cancer and who some will remember as the accompanist for Scruton's Ladies Choir. Donations of suitable clothes may be bagged and left at Janet's bungalow (Mallards) or call Janet on 748 321 for collection.



## Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

April has been dominated by high pressure bringing bright, sunny days with a cold, dry, northerly airstream, resulting in some severe frosty nights which have burnt some early blossom, especially magnolias and camellias and even new growth on roses. The impact of the cold, dry weather is that trees and hedges have been slow to come into leaf. Even the lawns have hardly needed mowing! Birdlife is suffering with blackbirds, thrushes, robins and rooks struggling to find sufficient food for their young. Historically, this is known as a 'blackthorn winter' in rural areas and has been well documented for generations. The blackthorn blossom has been magnificent this year so hopefully there will be plenty of sloes in the autumn for gin making!

Currently we have one swallow which arrived on 10 April, but as yet, no house martins which in the last five years have arrived before the swallows. As you enter the village from the main road on the left hand side just before the farm, there is a weeping ash tree with a large hole in it which regularly has a little owl perched on the rim; a stunning little bird. May, hopefully will bring some much needed rain and the swifts.

### St Radegund's Church

Upcoming services are Covid secure, starting at 9:30am except where stated:

<b>2 May</b>	Holy Communion	Jenni
<b>9 May</b>	Holy Communion	Jenni
<b>13 May</b>	Evening Prayer on Zoom	7pm
<b>16 May</b>	Holy Communion	Jenni
<b>23 May</b>	Morning Worship	Paul
<b>30 May</b>	Holy Communion	Jenni

### Ham Hall Lane Closure

Ham Hall Lane will be closed from 10th to 14th May for repairs to the cattle grid.



## Scruton Station Needs You!

Plans to reopen the Wensleydale Railway from Bedale to Scruton via Leeming Bar are becoming clear and we need **a lot more volunteers!**

The plan is to have 6 trains a day and we need volunteers as meeters-and-greeters at Scruton on Wednesdays & weekends from the late Spring Bank Holiday through June and July in half-day or whole-day shifts.

Volunteering will not involve role play, but you will be encouraged to wear costumes appropriate to 1910, some of which can be provided, or you may prefer to wear your own. You will need to give information about Scruton Station and direct passengers to other nearby attractions as described in a visitors' leaflet. No experience is necessary and training will be given including Personal Rail Safety.

This is an exciting new proposal to get the railway back on track (forgive the pun) and should be great fun! For more information contact Keith and Joan Walker on 748 458 or email [keithandjoanwalker@gmail.com](mailto:keithandjoanwalker@gmail.com) or Janet Crampton on 748 321 or email [janetcrampton@icloud.com](mailto:janetcrampton@icloud.com)

### Coore Memorial Hall

The village hall is reopening subject to government guidelines. It is hoped that a Welcome Evening may be held as soon as regulations allow. Village Hall enquiries to Rory Clarke on 748 267

### HRH the Duke of Edinburgh

Scruton marked the passing of Prince Philip by lowering the Union flag on the Coore Memorial Hall. Volunteers tolled the bell at St. Radegund's Church for one hour before the funeral service.



## Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

Well, we wanted the rain to stop and we got what we wanted. The rain stopped at the perfect time, allowing all the spring crops to be sown with relative ease. The dry weather allowed for muck spreading on each field followed by ploughing, to incorporate it into the ground. After a day, I was able to harrow the soil to make a seedbed and compact it down before it dried out too much. At this point it was ready for sowing with barley or fodder beet and all was done without being rained off.

The potatoes are now planted although I have cut the acreage down this year, because every acre costs around £2,000 to fertilise, plant, keep disease free, harvest, store, grade and transport to market. I have fed a large quantity to my livestock this year because even the food banks don't want potatoes.

The only crops to plant now are swedes and wild flowers which I never imagined that I would be growing, but Triona, my daughter, needed an area to research for her university degree and I'll look forward to them flowering. I hardly dare ask for rain to make everything grow!

### Thankful Ale - Lucky 100th

A lucky individual, whose name will be drawn at random, will receive £25 cash back when the 100th case is delivered. Thankful Ale is available at £25 per case (12 bottles) delivered to your door. Contact Chalky White on Scruton's Facebook page, WhatsApp group or by email. All profits go to the village.



## Scruton Parish Council

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### Hambleton District Councillor

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### North Yorkshire County Councillor

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

## Parish Council Meetings 2021

The Parish Council **Annual General Meeting** is due to be held in May.

Further details of future meetings, subject to government guidelines, will follow on Network Scruton.

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

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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