

Scruton News

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August 2023



Gardeners' World

by Elizabeth Davies

The rain at the end of July will have done much good, but it has spoilt the roses that are flowering now, so I give them a light prune, a feed of Fish, Blood and Bone and hopefully in a few weeks time they will have a second crop of flowers, although not all roses are repeat flowering. The perennial geraniums such as 'Johnson's Blue' have finished flowering and can be cut down to the ground to produce new growth, and hopefully a second flowering. Geranium 'Rozanne' and 'Ann Folkard' are still flowering, so leave them until later.

Dianthus, or Garden Pinks, such as 'Mrs Simkins' and 'Doris' die back after 3 or 4 years, but are easily propagated and now is the time to do it. Take new shoots, cut at a leaf node, strip off the bottom leaves and then insert round the side, in gritty compost, preferably in a terracotta pot. Then stand them in the greenhouse or on a windowsill, but not in full sun. This is also the time to take penstemon cuttings, treat them in the same way as the dianthus. Tomatoes are starting to ripen, so cut off the lower leaves to let more light to the fruit and after 5-6 trusses take off the top of the plant, and keep removing side shoots.



Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

If the weather dries up in the coming month, then that will be perfect. Almost all of the first crop of grass has been made into hay because it was drying out so fast in the sunshine that I just left it for hay. Why bother with the expense of wrapping it in plastic to make silage, when a couple of extra days in the sun would dry it enough to store as hay? The current rainy spell has encouraged the grass to grow again. Those who mow lawns will have noticed how much more grass is around, compared with last year.

At the time of writing, I still have yet to start harvest. The winter barley was almost dry enough a couple of weeks ago but once the rain arrived any chance of harvest was lost and we now have to wait until sun and wind dry the grains enough for them to store over the coming winter. I don't mind a couple of weeks of rain in the middle of summer. It encourages the grass and the root crops to grow and I can utilise the rainy days to repair and service machinery. If the weather dries up now, it will be perfect!



Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

We have at least one pair of sparrow hawks which operate in the village. Those of you with bird feeders will be aware of the sudden attacks on garden birds, or more usually the tell-tale sign of a patch of feathers on the lawn. Now young sparrowhawks are near fledging, which coincides with the abundance of new garden birds, consequently the adults are continually hunting.



Male Sparrowhawk

I have feeders above a shrubbery and recently the male sparrowhawk has altered its killing strategy. Initially it will attack the feeding station and if it fails to kill, will sit above in the cherry tree and wait for its prey to seek shelter in the shrubs. Then it dives into the shrubs and chases them, running from bush to bush until it has success or gives up.

Tony and Judy Phillips recently saw a red kite attack a group of young rabbits playing on their lawn. They were amazed at the manoeuvrability of such a large bird and its colourful plumage. At dusk, Mary and Rory Clarke have seen a barn owl quartering the grass field in front of the pub. It usually exits the field over Fleetham Lane into the Parklands.



Red Kite

Finally, if you are walking, especially with dogs, be aware that ticks are plentiful this year, especially in woodland and moorland with bracken. This is a high risk area and Lyme disease, although still uncommon, can be very nasty.

Solar Array Approved

The outcome of Lightrock's appeal against HDC's refusal for a Solar Array was published on 27 June. The scheme will now go ahead, subject to conditions.

Decision - The main issue in the appeal was the effect of the development on, and potential loss of, agricultural land.

Whilst recognising that land classification is a matter of judgement by experts, the independent inspector concluded that most of the site is not 'Best & Most Versatile' land. Moreover, even if it was, the land would not be 'lost', and neither the Local Plan nor National Policy prevents the use of such land. Nor are there any suitable alternative lower grade sites. The inspector states that the specific way agricultural land is used is not subject to planning controls. The fact that the proposal limits arable farming, does not mean that it results in the loss of land, when it can still be used for other purposes, grazing of sheep, or even left fallow (which is encouraged by current government schemes), whilst also being used to produce solar energy.

The Appeal Decision also states that the proposed development would not be detrimental to the nation's food security. It further states that any adverse impact on the countryside would be limited to a localised area, which could be effectively mitigated. It notes that the site has an immediate connection to the nearby substation, and the development would be a valuable contribution to achieving renewable energy goals, as well as achieving biodiversity net gains.

Costs - Although parties normally cover their own expenses in planning appeals, full costs were awarded to Lightrock because HDC acted unreasonably and failed to produce evidence to support the scheme's refusal, thereby delaying a plan that should have been permitted.

Responses - SPC response to the decision is covered overleaf in the Parish Council's Column. Chris Sowerbutts (Lightrock) said, "We understand this is not the outcome that everyone in the village was hoping for, but we do hope to be able to move forward constructively to ensure the delivery of a high quality project with a minimum of disruption to village life. We remain in favour of a community benefit fund and positive community impact."

Full versions of the Appeal and Cost Decisions can be accessed online at www.northyorks.gov.uk - Editor.



Services at St Radegund's

All services at St Radegund's are on Sunday at 9:30 am except where stated. The Rev. Jenni Lane may be contacted on 01609 631122.

- 6 Aug** Morning Worship, Paul
- 13 Aug** Holy Communion, Lesley
- 20 Aug** Holy Communion, Jenni
- 23 Aug** Evensong (Wed at 7 pm), Jenni
- 27 Aug** No Service in Scruton
- 3 Sep** Holy Communion, Jenni & Stasi

St Radegund – 13 August is the 'Feast Day of St Radegund'. Scruton is one of only 5 parish churches in the UK dedicated to this saint, see her in the window on the north wall of the church.

Art Exhibition in Church



Charity Coffee Mornings - There are no coffee morning in August but please join us on **Saturday 16 Sept** in aid of the Friends of Ainderby Steeple School.



Petrolheads

A second trip, this time to Tan Hill, was enjoyed in fine weather. James Charnley is tasked with devising the next outing. Call Alan, 01609 748712 for details.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Village Welcome Evening

The Newcomers Welcome Evening will take place on **Friday 22 Sept at 7 pm** in the village hall. This will be an informal evening, to get to know fellow villagers and to learn what the village has to offer. A finger buffet and liquid refreshment will be available. If you are new to the village, you should receive a personal invitation. If you haven't received an invitation by 1st September, kindly make yourselves known to Avryl Pearson, call 01609 748419 or 07967 928911 or email avryljean@gmail.com

All villagers are encouraged to attend!



Screen Scruton

Film Night is due to return to the village hall on 11 October. **Please email Stephen Elmer with any suggestions for films you would like to see.** stephen.elmer@scruton.net

Scruton Safari Supper



Karen Long is planning the next Safari Supper for the evening of **Sat 14 Oct**. Karen says, 'This a wonderful way to meet and socialise with different friends and neighbours, whilst raising money for a good cause. The event involves you making one course of a meal for 6 people, then moving to a different house for each course with different diners. Neither the guests nor the hosts know who is coming! The evening usually ends with everyone meeting up in the pub.'

If you would like to participate call or text Karen on 07876 340 184 or email karenrachel69@gmail.com



Harvest Supper

This year's Harvest Supper will be on **Friday 20 October**, 7:30 pm in the village hall. More details will follow.

Copy Deadline for the next edition is 25 AUGUST

Scruton Parish Councillors

Chris Barron (Clerk)	01609 748 315	ronald.barron@btinternet.com
Maurice Daley	01609 748 198	maurice@mdpuk.co.uk
Trevor Howe	01609 748 355	tdhscruton@gmail.com
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Mike Widmer	01609 748 392	mawstonemole@gmail.com

North Yorkshire Councillor (Morton-on-Swale & Appleton Wiske)

Annabel Wilkinson 01677 426 744 cllr.annabel.wilkinson@northyorks.gov.uk

Thankful Village Fireworks

Quiz night at the Coore Arms

Scruton's Pyro Squad invite you to an evening of quizzing, fun & games with quizmaster Anthony Wood on **Sunday 27 Aug at 7 pm** to raise money for this year's Thankful Firework display (on 11 Nov). The cost is £10 per person which includes hot food. Please contact the Coore Arms to book a table. Donation of Raffle Prizes would be appreciated, contact Greg Clapham or Mark Gatenby (or bring them on the night).

From the Parish Council

By Cllr. Syd Nye (Chairman)

Solar Array - The Planning Inspector has overturned HDC's planning permission rejection of the Solar Installation. SPC are disappointed at the decision and the manner in which the appeal hearing was conducted and are exploring options to challenge the decision.

The Inspector placed a number of planning conditions that must be adhered to in constructing the facility. We will be closely monitoring the construction phase with an expert to ensure those conditions are fully complied with and that the disruption to the village is kept to a minimum.

Coronation Memorials – The new Playing Field entrance has necessitated a new notice board. This will be jointly funded by the Cricket Club, the Playing Fields and SPC and will be the village commemoration of the coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III.

SPC thank Joan Walker for all her help in distributing the Coronation Mugs to Scruton's young people. There are just a few mugs left, so if you would like to buy any, please contact the Clerk.

Other Works - Later in the year the fascia board on the Bus Shelter will be replaced and the two memorial seats on the Green will be repainted.

AUGUST - known as 'Weod Monath' by the Saxons, because it was the month when weeds (grass) grows most rapidly.

Parish Council Meetings

The public are welcome to attend council meetings in the Coore Memorial Hall, starting at 7:30 pm.

2023: 14 September, 9 November

2024: 11 Jan, 14 March, 11 April (APM), 9 May (AGM)

Scruton News is published by Scruton Parish Council and edited by Stephen Elmer. Please note - the editor reserves the right to make changes for editorial reasons; some views may not be those of the Parish Council.



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