

# Scruton News

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March 2023



## Gardeners' World

by Elizabeth Davies

How good to see the snowdrops, aconites, crocus and early daffodils, spring is just around the corner and the village green is looking lovely!

Snowdrops benefit from splitting when they become congested. Do this after they have flowered when the leaves are green. Split them into roughly 6 bulbs and replant, an easy way to increase your stock or give away. Garden Centres are charging £7 a pot for a few bulbs!



Hellebores are flowering and if you have not already done so, cut the old leaves down to the base as they can become diseased. They come in different shades of pink as well as white, some white are spotted and I have a black and a yellow one. There are also double ones. Let them set seed and self seed, so that next year you will have lots of young plants which will flower after a year or two, more free plants!

Now is the time to chit early potatoes, either in egg boxes or trays, with the blunt end up, somewhere light and frost free, a windowsill is ideal. When the sprouts are 2.5 cm in a couple of weeks, plant them out. If garden space is an issue, plant them in pots, sacks or plastic bags with holes. Swift or Rocket are a good variety for our soil.



## Strollers & Striders

Scruton Walking Group meets **every Monday**. The next walk on 6 March is planned to be across Morton Bridge and a circuit on the south side of the A684. As usual, assemble on the village green at 10 am. Dogs are welcome and normal country codes must be observed.

Contact Janet Crampton for details and with suggestions for future walks. Tel 01609 748321, 07540 503030 or [janetcrampton@icloud.com](mailto:janetcrampton@icloud.com)

## Scruton 'Festival' Saturday 24 June 2023

Keep the date in your diary and stand by for further details from Scruton Playing Field Association (SPFA) over the next few weeks. The live band (Roundel) is already booked as well as a DJ. Look out for notices in future Newsletters, on Network Scruton, and on the village community Facebook page.



## Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

While admiring the spring flowers in the church yard, I noticed grey squirrels chasing each other along the church wall. This is the beginning of their breeding season and there was much squabbling. Grey squirrels were introduced in Britain in the 1870's and spread rapidly, displacing the native red squirrel by a combination of greater physical size and reproductive capacity, allied to it carrying the squirrel pox virus, for which the red has no immunity.



Schemes have been introduced to reduce grey numbers and increase red, with some successes. In the long term the answer may lie with the pine marten which is very partial to greys. Due to their destructive nature, grey squirrels are classed as vermin and it is illegal to keep them as pets or release them into the wild. If you trap them they must be dispatched. Whilst researching this article I read legal guidance regarding the trapping of greys which went into the dos and don'ts of the operation. A final suggestion on the 'disposal of carcasses' - they can be eaten! I have a recipe for squirrel casserole!

Unfortunately, amongst their many destructive attributes greys have a penchant for lead flashing and pipes and can cause significant damage to property. Currently the church and the Old Rectory are under attack!

## A Load of Old Rubbish!

The new operators at the Allerton Park Waste Recovery Site (south on the A1 close to the A59 junction) are offering 'Visitor Experience Tours'. Comprising a one hour talk about recycling and waste recovery, followed by a 45 minute tour.



If there is sufficient interest, Janet Crampton will organise a trip with a small charge for minibus hire, probably late spring or summer. Contact Janet if interested but please note this outing may not be suitable if you have certain health or mobility issues.



## Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

Well, we're over the bleakest months of the year. I can't say that the coldest part is yet over because recent years have brought a cold east wind during March and April. March is a hopeful month, with lighter mornings and evenings and the promise of summer approaching.

Most of my sheep have lambed, with only a few 'stragglers' remaining. I like the sheep to lamb during the winter months because I have more time to look after them before getting busy in spring. For 40 years I have done around 110 hours of work each week during lambing, my busiest time of the year; this drops back to around 60 hours per week at my easiest time, during late spring.

You will be aware that the supermarkets are starting to run short of certain foods. They refuse to pay suppliers any extra to compensate for increased production costs brought about by higher energy and fertiliser prices. Many farmers are cutting back on the food crops which they are planting this coming year. I will only plant half as many potatoes, it is uneconomic to spend £12 to grow a sack of potatoes which I then deliver for £10!

## Scruton History Folders

There are FIVE history folders that have been out on loan for over six months.

**Trevor Howe** would like them returned ASAP please (Tel 01609 748355).

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

- 5 Mar** Holy Communion - Lesley Ashton
- 12 Mar** Morning Worship - Paul
- 19 Mar** No service in Scruton
- 26 Mar** Holy Communion - Jenni
- 2 Apr** No service in Scruton
- 5 Apr** Evensong (Wed 7 pm)

**A New Curate** - will soon be welcomed to the benefice. She is due to arrive in July and will live in Scruton.



## Lent Lunch

Please join us for homemade soup and roll, in the village hall on **Wednesday 29 March** from 12 noon to 2 pm, all are welcome (no need to book).



## Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning in the village hall, 10 am to 12 noon on **Saturday 18 March**, will be in aid of Marie Curie. As usual, donations of Raffle prizes and items for the Cake Stall would be much appreciated. For more details or to help call Jacqueline on 01609 748617.

## Scruton Ladies Evening Do

The next SLED will be 7 pm at the Coore Arms on **Wednesday 29 March**. If you wish to attend please contact Helen on 07852 99803 before Sunday 26 March.



Future dates for your diary are 31 May, 26 July, 27 September & 29 November.



## Kirkby Fleetham Women's Institute

Please join us for a flower demonstration by Jane Snook on **Thurs 9 March**, 7:15 pm at Kirkby Fleetham Village Hall. For details call Carol Barron on 01609 748 315 or [carolinesboxes@gmail.com](mailto:carolinesboxes@gmail.com)



## Lunch Club

The next Lunch Club will be **Sunday 26 March** (later than usual to avoid Mothering Sunday) at the Coore Arms. If you wish to participate, call Alyson Tonge on 01609 748 227 or email [alysontonge@gmail.com](mailto:alysontonge@gmail.com)



## Book Club

The next Book Club meeting will be on **Tuesday 28 March** at 2:30 pm. For information call or text Janet Crampton on 07540 503030 or 01609 748321.



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**Solar Array** - We have been informed that Lightrock Power have lodged an appeal against the refusal of planning permission for a Solar Power Station Installation at Scruton. As and when we have any further information we will circulate it.

**Silver Street Corner** - We were hopeful that the drain problem would have been resolved by now, we have not been informed of the reason for the delay.

**Trees** - We are still waiting for Planning Permission for the pruning of the trees on the village green. We will advise you when work is due to start.

## King Charles III Coronation

Scruton Parish Council still have some Coronation Mugs available. If you wish to order any (£6 each), please contact the Parish Clerk. Please also let him know how many young people want mugs (no charge to under 16s).



SPC have not received any suggestions for celebrating or commemorating the Coronation, if you have any ideas please forward them to the Parish Clerk.

The Coronation Bank Holiday Weekend runs from **Saturday 6 May to Monday 8 May**. If you are thinking of organising any celebration, perhaps a Street Party or Village Picnic, please also let Scruton News know before the next edition.

## The Cusp of two Seasons...

*'If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb.'*



## Parish Council Meetings 2023

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

- 9 March**
- 13 April (Annual Parish Meeting)**
- 11 May (Parish Council 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 and some views may not be those of the Parish Council.

**Copy Deadline for the next edition is 25 MARCH**

## Scruton Parish Councillors

Chris Barron (Clerk) 01609 748 315  
Maurice Daley 01609 748 198  
Trevor Howe 01609 748 355  
Syd Nye (Chair) 01609 748 464  
John Thompson 01609 748 067  
Mike Widmer 01609 748 392

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[mawstonemole@gmail.com](mailto:mawstonemole@gmail.com)

## Hambleton District Councillor (Morton-on-Swale Ward)

Cllr. Brian Phillips 01609 765 991 [cllr.brian.phillips@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.brian.phillips@hambleton.gov.uk)

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

Annabel Wilkinson 01677 426 744 [cllr.annabel.wilkinson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.annabel.wilkinson@northyorks.gov.uk)