# Scruton Map



\* Photo of Scruton Station from Ken Hoole Collection/Head of Steam - Darlington Railway Museum.

# Scruton Station & Village

**Scruton Lane Station** was originally opened by the York, Newcastle and Berwick Railway in 1848 and later became known as Scruton Station. In 1854 it became part of the North Eastern Railway (NER) and part of the London & North Eastern Railway (LNER) in 1923.



Scruton Lane Station in 1910 Used for goods, livestock and passengers, the station was closed to passengers in 1954 (before the Beeching cuts) and soon fell into decay. It would have been lost forever but for the initiative of a few locals and a dedicated team of volunteers.



Scruton Station Derelict in 2003

Over a number of years, and with support from the the Railway Heritage Trust, the station was authentically and painstakingly restored using traditional materials and methods. It was eventually reopened by the Wensleydale Railway Trust in 2015.

#### **Scruton Station Restored**

With support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Scruton Station has established a new life as a railway heritage education resource. School groups take a 'Step Back in Time' by wearing period costumes on a heritage train journey from Leeming Bar, arriving at Scruton where they experience what life was like over a 100 years ago. Costumed volunteers, playing the part of real villagers from Scruton's past, use interactive story telling, curriculum linked activities and access to an archive of historic artifacts to bring the stories to life.



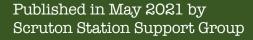
Scruton Station Restored in 2016

## **National Recognition**

**Visitor Information** 

The outstanding work undertaken by all the volunteers at Scruton Station has been honoured with numerous prestigious awards, including two National Railway Heritage Blue Plaque Awards for Best Station Restoration in 2015 and for the Railway Platform Extension in 2017. Both blue plaques now hang proudly in the station waiting room.

In 2017 the Heritage Education Team at Scruton Station won the British Museum Marsh Trust Award for Museum Learning.









## Scruton's Heritage

### **Ancient Origins**

There has been a settlement at Scruton since the 6th or 7th century. The original name of the village is unknown, but in the 9th century it took the Viking name of Scurfa's tun (Scurfa's farm). By 1086 it became Skurveton or Scurueton and eventually Scruton. After the Norman Conquest the lands in Skurveton were given to Picot de Lascelles. Skurveton remained in the Lascelles family until the end of the 13th century. In 1314 it passed to the Markenfields of Markenfield Hall and then to the Danby family of Thorp Perrow.

#### **Scruton Hall**

Thomas Gale purchased the manor of Scruton from the Danbys in 1688. His son Roger Gale, the renowned academic and MP for Northallerton, built Scruton Hall in 1705. He planted the Lebanon cedars, some of which survive in Scruton parkland and are emblematic of the village. The manor of Scruton passed to the Coore family in 1816. Scruton estate was sold in 1953 when the last of the Coore family died and the hall was demolished in 1958.

#### **Church of St Radegund**

The first church in Scruton was a simple structure built in the 12th century. A Norman buttress from the original building remains on the west wall. The church was extended in the 13th century and a chantry was founded in 1335. The tower was added in the 15th century. Extensive restoration took place in 1865, paid for by the Coore family. The 3 church bells were restored in 1987 to celebrate the 1400th anniversary of the death of St Radegund. The work was financed through public subscription and by families with the name of Scruton, from all over the world.

### A Thankful Village

Scruton is known as a Thankful Village because all its servicemen returned from the First World War. When memorials to the fallen were being erected everywhere else. Scruton raised money for a peace memorial as a symbol of its thankfulness. A memorial clock, made by Potts of Leeds, was installed on the church tower in 1921. Knowledge of Scruton's Thankful Village status was established in 2004 when research confirmed that all the soldiers from the village had come home. Thanks to further research in 2018, on the centenary anniversary of the end of WW1. we now know more about the lives and fortunes of these blessed men of Scruton.

Fred, Herbert, Arthur and John Kemp were four local brothers who all survived the war, as did Miles Procter, George Fawcett and Thomas Stead. Simpson Bellwood, seaman Thomas Firby and Henry Robinson (whose descendants still live locally) also returned home safely.

Harry Waterson worked at Scruton Station before the war and Percy and Aubrey Johnson were the sons of Scruton's Stationmaster Francis Johnson. After the war Aubrey resumed his career with the railway and became a Station Master.



Left to Right: Porter (Albert Crossley), Stationmaster (Francis Johnson) and Railway Signal Lad (Harry Waterson) \*

## **Places to Visit**

## Scruton Playing Field (0.3 miles/7 minutes walk)

Located adjacent to Scruton Cricket Club, the playing field facilities include tennis and basketball courts, a football pitch and picnic benches. The extensive array of children's play equipment includes swings, slides, climbing frames and even a zip-wire for the more adventurous! Please note, dogs are not permitted in the playing field.



#### The Coore Arms (0.4 miles/8 minutes walk)

The Coore family name lives on at the village pub, where a warm welcome awaits you from landlord Mark Brown and his team who will serve a friendly drink and wholesome proper pub food. The pub is dog friendly with ample outdoor seating, and makes a good base for countryside walks around Scruton.



Tables must be pre-booked by emailing thecoorearms.co.uk or call 01609 748 215.

The pub is open Wednesday to Sunday. Go to <u>www.thecoorearms.com</u> for the latest details about menus, opening hours, or any further information.

# Village Green/Conservation Zone (0.7 miles/14 minutes walk)

The old lime trees around the perimeter and along the trackway to the church are a feature of the village green. The green is designated as a conservation area which extends to include the church and several historic properties surrounding the green, some of which are listed.



## St Radegund's Church

The Grade II listed church sits at the heart of the village overlooking the green. Interestingly it is one of only five churches in England dedicated to the saint who was a 6th century Frankish queen. Her image is portrayed in a stained glass window inside the church. Note the unusual 'coffin stone' beneath the lych gate where coffins were laid before burial to await the arrival of the Rector.

