

Scruton News

Scruton Parish Council

Dec 2020

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A Covid Christmas

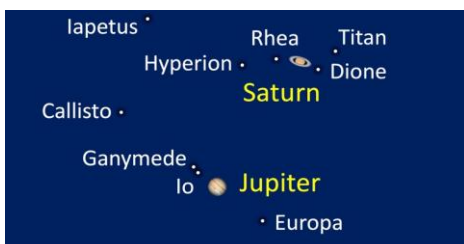
Nick Baines, the Bishop of Leeds, believes we need to be realistic that Christmas is not going to be anything like normal. However, a pared-down Christmas may be just the ticket for remembering the original Christmas story, he said, "We talk about there being no room at the inn. We talk about an inhospitable environment and yet the light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not put it out. Christmas didn't begin in Debenhams or Marks and Spencer but in an obscure part of the Roman Empire when life was very cheap."

Scruton Sky at Night

by Peter Williams

At 7 am on 12 December the thin waning crescent Moon will be low in the SE, with Venus to the lower left. This should be a spectacle as the Earth will be illuminating the night hemisphere of the Moon.

The maximum of the Geminid meteors takes place on the 13th. Geminids may be seen from the 4th to the 17th, and the maximum this year is very favourable because there is no Moon to interfere. This 'Shooting Star Shower' is the richest of the annual showers. Meteor rates can be around 100 per hour. December's New Moon is at 4 pm on the 14th. The Winter Solstice takes place at 10 am on the 21st. The Earth's north pole is tilted as far as it can be away from the Sun and this day is the official start of Winter.



Jupiter approaches Saturn for one of their closest conjunctions on this day when the two planets are separated by only 0.1°. Look for them with binoculars, low in the SW at around 5 pm. With sufficient magnification, you may see the four major satellites of Jupiter and Saturn's rings. This is a rare occurrence and I would urge you to witness this interesting event.

Request for Christmas Donations

St. Radegund's Church is organising a collection of tinned and dry goods for delivery to Hambleton Foodshare on 11 December, for those in need at Christmas. Please leave any contributions

in the front porch of the Mainwaring-Taylor's house on the Green from 3rd to 10th Dec. Or contact John (tel. 748 617) for collection. Details of items needed will be sent out on **Network Scruton**.

Happy Christmas and a safe New Year, when hopefully (as Vera Lynn would say) "We'll Meet Again!"



Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

When I left school, farming was simple. Produce food for people to eat, as much as possible to feed the nation. The more we farmers produced the better off we were financially. By the time of the Ethiopian famine, I thought that we could help feed the world.

Those days are past. If we still wish to produce food, it must be no dearer than world prices, whilst the fuel and inputs must be bought at highly taxed British prices. In recent years we relied on European subsidies to make up the difference, but these end next year and government money will go to nature conservation. Do I mind? I'm not sure. Last Summer I planted 8 acres of herbal leys (a mixture of clovers, herbs and grasses to attract insects & pollinators) to see if I can feed my cattle and sheep, using lower input costs whilst helping nature. This is a trial, but producing unwanted food is certainly uneconomic.

Scruton History

Scruton History Group - On 28 February there was an inaugural meeting of the Scruton History Group attended by over 20 people. There was much enthusiasm and discussion about the rich archive of historical material available about Scruton. Ideas were suggested for a number of projects. Then came COVID!

Little progress has been made since, but don't give up! Feedback from February's meeting has been kept and everyone who attended will be contacted in the New Year with the aim of 'picking up where we left off'. If you didn't attend the February meeting but would like to be kept up to date, please contact the editor.

Scruton History – Interested in local history? Then Trevor Howe's folders are available to borrow. They cover each decade from 1900 to 1990s; Scruton Estate Sale; Hoare/Fothergill Family; Peacock Family; Coore Family and Scruton Cricket Club. Call Trevor on 748 355 or email: tdhscruton@tiscali.co.uk



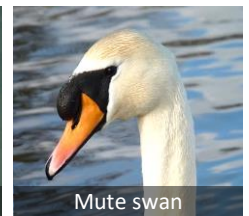
Nature Notes

By Andy Johnston

This Autumn is one of the warmest on record with no frost of any note as yet. Consequently, Summer flowers are still in bloom. On the village green, snow drops and daffodils are well through and even a few celandines are flowering. Mild weather has encouraged rooks to begin nest building in the limes and a song thrush was singing in a tree at Pittfields Corner recently. Fields along the A684 to Morton Bridge are a haven for wintering flocks of curlew, golden plover, lapwing and gulls. An unusual event has been the regular meeting of feeding hares, with eighteen spotted recently.



Whooper swan



Mute swan

The first major flood coincided with the migration of whooper swans from Iceland and the flooded fields at Morton Flatts attracted a family group of six. If you see swans flying over the village don't assume they are mutes as more and more whoopers are wintering here. In addition to their larger size, they have a distinctive whooping call. Currently a huge flock of starlings is feeding on the stubble fields along Common Lane and they can be frequently seen in a murmuration. When the cold weather arrives look out for waxwings.

Scruton Christmas Card

Thankyou to everyone who bought village Christmas cards. **All cards are now sold** (however prints can still be ordered).

The deadline for signature donations and Christmas greetings for inclusion in the card which is delivered to every house is the **9 December**. The sale of Christmas cards and the donations raises money for charity. This year the money raised is for St. Radegund's Church Fabric Fund. Please contact Joan Walker, 24 The Parklands, 01609 748 458 or email: keithandjoanwalker@gmail.com



Lych Gate Carols

Please join us in the afternoon on Sunday 20 December, when we hope to *play* Carols from the new church lych gates. Details will follow on **Network Scruton**.

St Radegund's Church

Elizabeth Davies – has retired from the role of assistant Churchwarden and given up her position on the Parish and Local Church Councils. Elizabeth thanks everyone for the generous donations on her retirement and reminds us that she will still look after the churchyard and continue with other church duties. If anyone would like to help out with church flowers or cleaning, call her on 748 664 or email 23lizdavies@gmail.com

Joyce Williams – who has been the organist at St. Radegund's Church for many years, is retiring. Her playing has enhanced services and her willingness to go way beyond what was expected, play at other events and occasions and tackle difficult musical requests with grace and skill has been much appreciated. We would like to thank her for her contribution to the life of the church and the village and wish her well in the future.

Church Services

Due to Covid-19 there are no services at present, but the church is open for private prayer. If you wish to join the Sunday Zoom Service, please email Paul Chubb: paul.anthony.chubb@btinternet.com

As soon as regulations change, details of services will be sent on **Network Scruton**.



Letters to the Editor



Phil Johnson writes to say he can help put your lawn to bed for the winter by scarifying to remove thatch, reduce moss and improve its health, call Phil on 748 179 or 07960 765 229.

Alan Moore 1919 - 2020

Cedric Alan Findlay Moore aged 101 sadly passed away peacefully at home on Saturday 14 November 2020. Alan was married to Hilda for 71 years and leaves two children, Gillian and Roger

We believe the secret of his longevity was his love of honey each day on his porridge - a whole jar every two weeks. He was a modest unassuming man with a twinkle in his eye; a gentleman with an enquiring mind and always wanting to help others.

It's been a joy and privilege to share your life. We love you forever.

From the Parish Council

Dog Waste Bin – Following a request from the Parish Council, Hambleton DC have installed an additional dog waste bin at the eastern end of Common Lane.

Leaf Clearing – The Parish Council is grateful to Kevin Procter, who kindly volunteered to sweep up leaves on the village green.



Footpath Funding – NYCC have declined the Parish Council's bid for funding a footpath along Station Road to the junction with the A684.

Scruton's Oldest Man

Alan Moore was born in Sunderland. His father was Head Teacher at Bede School (the oldest school in England); his mother was daughter to Jim Coley, a founding member of CWS (the Co-Op as we know it today). Alan was the youngest of three inseparable brothers who loved to play on the beach, cycle round the Lakes or drive their Riley Speedster to Scotland. Alan bred the first tortoiseshell mouse (immortalised on a Pathé newsreel). Selling the mice countrywide at age 16, triggered Alan's life-long love of business.

At 19 Alan was conscripted to the 51st Highland Division. As part of a small force left behind to hold back the Germans at Dunkirk, he was captured and marched 800 miles in 3½ weeks to be imprisoned in Stalag 20A in Poland. After 6 years Alan was repatriated via Odessa, having escaped both the Germans & Russians and endured the atrocities of concentration camps. On arriving home, the door was shut in his face by his mother who thought he was dead and did not recognise him. The housekeeper had to persuade her to let him in!

Alan married Hilda in 1949 and they started a bakery business, having trained in Lucerne, his wedding cakes were legendary. Alan became a trouble-shooter for various companies, spending 30 years as a Director for Rank Hovis McDougall. In retirement he ran businesses with his son well into his nineties and (as the story goes) perhaps even gave the idea of oven ready chips to McCain! Alan appeared on the Antiques Roadshow with his secret hidden radio from his POW days. He co-founded the Northdale Disabled Garden Centre and was a Northallerton Town Councillor.

Scruton's oldest man enjoyed a long and most extraordinary life.

Scruton News Thank You

Many thanks go to Richard Zealley for printing, to all newsletter contributors, and to the distribution team for your support throughout this difficult year - Ed.

Parish Council Meetings 2020

All Parish Council meetings are suspended until further notice.

Do you have any items for Scruton News?

Please email: stephen.elmer@scruton.net

The deadline for the next edition is 23 Dec.

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

Scruton Parish Council

Simon Britton 07866 721146 sbconfidential@georgefwhite.co.uk
Trevor Howe 748 355 tdhscruton@gmail.com
Phill Langan 748 931 phill.langan@sky.com
Syd Nye 748 464 syd@nyeref.co.uk
Mike Widmer 748 392 mswstonemole@gmail.com
Chris Barron (Clerk) 748 315 ronald.barron@btinternet.com

Hambleton District Councillor

Cllr. Brian Phillips cllr.brian.phillips@hambleton.gov.uk

North Yorkshire County Councillor

Cllr. Annabel Wilkinson cllr.annabel.wilkinson@northyorks.gov.uk

Web: www.scruton.net Email: stephen.elmer@scruton.net
Twitter: @ScrutonVillage Facebook: Scruton Community Page