

Scruton News

Scruton Parish Council January 2020



Happy New Year
to all our readers

New Year/New Look

Scruton News begins the new decade with a fresh look and a new 3-column format. Your views about the new layout and any suggestions about what to include (or what not to include) in future editions would be appreciated.

Stephen Elmer



Nature Notes

By Andy Johnston

At this time of the year with darkness dominating the day, most birds spend much of their time roosting. Larger birds such as rooks, jackdaws and pigeons will often form huge roosts both for protection and warmth. Many birds have the ability to sleep with one eye open, i.e. shutting down half the brain while the other half remains active as they are vulnerable to predation especially from owls. Smaller birds seek sanctuary and warmth in thick bushes and hedges. Sparrows in particular like privet hedges where they congregate just before dusk squabbling and chattering. In extremely cold weather, wrens will collect together in one nest or nesting box and the record to date is 60 in one box! If you have a bird box it is likely that it is occupied, probably by a blue tit.



Richard and Jane Meeres have a blue tit (which they've named 'Elgie') roosting every night in their porch lamp, enjoying the heat from the lightbulb!

Don't forget to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch on 25 - 27 January this year. Go to www.rspb.org.uk for details.

Village Hall Week

Celebrating England's Village Halls, 20 – 26 January 2020

By Anthony Wood

Scruton's original Village Institute was an ex-military wooden hut on the corner of Silver Street and Station Road which hosted dances most weekends, alternating with whist and domino drives and the like. By the mid 1960s the Institute was in a poor state of repair and fund raising began to replace it with a permanent structure on the same site. In 1967 the village school was closed, and this raised the opportunity for the purchase of the building from the trustees of the Coore Estate who owned the freehold. This was a controversial matter at the time as many of the fundraisers wished to pursue a new purpose built hall rather than a conversion of the school, but the availability of the school and the adjoining house proved to be the critical factor and the Parish Council led on the final purchase.

The Coore Memorial Hall has been home to many activities including Mother & Toddler and Pre-School Groups, Karate Club, Scruton Society, Film Club, Coffee Mornings, Dominoe Drives, Quiz Nights and much more. Over the years, the Management Committee has overseen the upkeep and many improvements to the facilities, and like so many village halls up and down the country, the Coore Memorial Hall remains firmly at the heart of our community life.

There will be more about the story of our village hall at the next Coffee Morning on Sat. 18 January. Come along for a chat with friends and neighbours or get to know more people in the village over a nice cup of tea/coffee (PTO for details).

Film Club Voting Results

Thanks to everyone who voted for the new season of films. There were four clear winners and a close 'runner-up', so **five** films will be shown this season, which will be screened as follows:

8 Jan: **Rocketman** (18 votes)

12 Feb: **Mrs Lowry and Son** (22 votes)

11 Mar: **Downton Abbey** (24 votes)

8 April: **Judy** (22 votes)

13 May: **Official Secrets** (28 votes)

Votes for the films not chosen were: Ad Astra (6), The Art of Racing in the Rain (8) and Lion King (8). There was little interest shown in changing the film night from the current Wednesday.

Thank You Slot

Scruton's Charity Christmas Card

St Radegund's Charity Christmas Card has this year made in excess of £900 in aid of the Church Fabric Fund! The Local Church Council are indebted to Joan Walker who (with a little help from Stephen Elmer and Elizabeth Davies) masterminded its production. Joan Walker said, "Many thanks to all those who purchased cards and made donations for signatures."

Suitable photographs for the 2020 card would be gratefully received by Joan.

Please send your photos to:

keithandjoanwalker@gmail.com

Coore Arms Christmas Pub Quiz

The Quiz Night at the Coore Arms on 22 December raised £300 in aid of Motor Neurone Disease. Landlord, Mark Brown said, "Many thanks for the generous contributions from all who attended."

Scruton at dawn on Christmas Day

Photo by Graeme Nicholson



Dates for your Diary

Screen Scruton, Wed. 8 Jan. 2020

Film: Rocketman, 7:30 pm at the Coore Memorial Hall. Doors open at 7:00 pm. Contact Stephen Elmer to reserve seats.

Festive Coffee Morning, Sat. 18 Jan.

10am - Noon at the Coore Memorial Hall. Celebrating the story of our village hall. No cake stall but there will be a Raffle and donations of prizes and surplus Christmas edibles (mince pies, cake and biscuits etc.) would be appreciated. Contact Jacqueline Mainwaring-Taylor (748617) for details.

Book Club, Tue. 28 Jan. at 7:30 pm
Contact Janet Crampton for details.

SLED, Wed. 29 Jan. 7:00 for 7:30 pm at the Coore Arms. Call Bozz (748357) or Diana (748776) for details.

Kirkby Fleetham WI

New Members Welcome

All meetings start at 7.15pm
in Kirkby Fleetham Village Hall
on the second Thursday of the month.

9th Jan. – Members Evening

13th Feb. – Cookery Demonstration by Steve Marsh

12th Mar. – Listen to how the Street Angels keep members of the public safe

For more details contact
Helen Lunn on 01609 748582 or
email helenlunn123@gmail.com

Scruton History Group

Several people have expressed an interest in taking part in this. Look out in the next newsletter for details of an initial get-together in the spring.

Screen Scruton

Wed 8th January 7:30pm at the Coore Memorial Hall

ROCKETMAN is an epic musical story about Elton John's breakthrough years. The film follows the transformation from shy piano prodigy Reginald Dwight into international superstar Elton John. Set to Elton John's most beloved songs and performed by star Taron Egerton.



Doors open 7 pm, bring your own drinks & nibbles. No charge for admission but donations for the village hall. Contact: Stephen Elmer.

From the Parish Council

Garden Waste Services

Subscriptions for the 2020/21 garden waste collection service are available from Hambleton District Council. The cost is £40 per licence per year.

Christmas Tree Disposal

Christmas trees will be collected in January if they are chopped up and put in the green bin. Note: this service is for garden waste subscribers (see above).

For more details call 01609 779977 or go to www.Hambleton.gov.uk

Copy deadline for February news is
Friday 24 January
Email to stephen.elmer@scruton.net

SPC Precept Increase

In any given year, S.P.C. incurs many costs that simply cannot be avoided. Insurance, subscriptions and grass cutting are examples of this. Since the time of the last precept increase, seven years ago in 2013, the cost of these things has risen steadily, and whilst the required funding has never been a problem, the extra outlay has resulted in steady erosion of monies available for the numerous other works the Council has to oversee.

For this current year, from a precept of £4250, only around £1500 (35%) was available to cover any general expense, such as tree felling / pruning, or footpath repairs, and for a Parish the size of Scruton, this is a very small amount indeed, and it will reduce year on year without remedial action.

In order to arrest the decline and to bolster the funds to a more reasonable level, the decision was taken to increase the precept. The amount of increase was not scientifically calculated but it was felt that £300 or £400 would only scratch the surface of the problem and necessitate further increases in the near future. SPC acknowledge that the increase might seem on the high side at near 18%, but it is the first increase for seven years, the annual cost to each household in the Parish is less than the price of one glass of wine, and even with the increase, the precept level for Scruton is considerably lower than for most of the surrounding Parishes, though direct comparisons can be misleading as there are different levels of accountability.

SPC hope that this clarifies the precept position and stresses that there is no ambition to preside over a large bank balance, only to ensure that adequate funds are available to cover any of the unforeseen eventualities that inevitably arise over any period of time.

M S Widmer (Chair)

Parish Council Meetings 2020

Meetings are held at the Coore Memorial Hall, starting at 7.30 pm with a 10 minute open forum for parishioners. The public are welcome to attend.

- **Thursday 9 January**
- **Thursday 12 March**
- **Thursday 9 April (Annual Parish Meeting)**
- **Thursday 14 May (Annual General Meeting)**

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

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