

Scruton News

Scruton Parish Council

June 2020

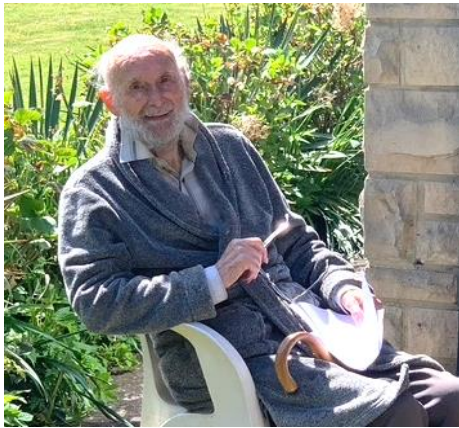


www.scruton.net

Scruton War Hero is 101

Happy Birthday to Scruton resident Alan Moore who was 101 years young on 19th May. Alan's war record is most remarkable. He was part of the small force left behind in Dunkirk to hold back the Germans whilst the majority of our troops were evacuated from the beach. Alan was taken prisoner and forced to march to a POW camp in Poland where he remained until liberated by the Allies

Alan, Hilda and daughter Gill send their thanks to everyone for their cards and good wishes on Alan's Birthday.



Scruton Sky at Night

by Peter Williams

There is no true night during June in Scruton; the sky is not black but rather a beautiful velvet deep blue, merging to turquoise on the northern horizon. Look out for Noctilucent Clouds in the hour before and after midnight, as they catch the light of the midnight sun.

The summer solstice occurs on 20th June, marking the astronomical start of summer with the longest day and shortest night here in the UK, and thereafter night length increases once again. The season of summer lasts about 94 days.

Full Moon is on the 5th and is the lowest Full Moon of this year. Mercury is at greatest elongation east of the Sun (24°) on the 4th, and the best chance to view it is during the first half of June in the twilight of the NW sky. It sets 2 hours after the Sun during the first few days of June, but this rapidly decreases throughout the month. Venus loses its brilliant appearance as the 'Evening Star' and slowly emerges into morning twilight before the end of June.

Thank You Slot

VE Day Fireworks – Thanks go to Mark Gatenby and Greg Clapham for organising a great firework display at short notice. Being coordinated from two locations in Scruton, most villagers were able to view the spectacle, which was a worthy finale to the VE Day celebrations.

Mark sends his thanks on behalf of the SPFA to everyone who gave donations. "We raised £485," he says "which more than covered the cost." Greg added, "We don't need much prompting to organise fireworks – its not a chore!" Hopefully they will be putting on an even bigger display in November!

Scruton's Environment

by Trevor Howe

Hopefully, Scruton residents have found our local environment a source of comfort at this time. We should note that this has not come about by chance but is the result of 50 years of hard work. Coincidentally it is 52 years since the registration of footpaths and village greens.

Hedgerows are the backbone of the English countryside and Scruton has a well-kept network with Hawthorn trees producing magnificent May blossom, which has been further enhanced by hedge planting in Ham Hall Lane, Fencote Road and Scruton Lane End.

A variety of trees are now in leaf, absorbing CO₂ and producing oxygen. They also take up water from the ground and provide windbreaks in exposed areas. It is not surprising that the Coore family planted 6000 trees!

Scruton Walks

Ian Hobson has produced a new set of walks around Scruton's countryside. Three of them (on public rights of way) can be downloaded from the village website at www.scruton.net

It should be noted that other walks on private land near the flood banks are only available to Scruton residents with the kind permission of David or Bill Raine. It is stressed that dog walkers must respect the Country Code.



Nature Notes

By Andy Johnston

Storm Arthur has brought spring to an abrupt end, wrecking blossom trees and gardens and scorching Mary & Rory Clarke's apple tree! On a brighter note, Audrey & Gordon McQuillen have had a song thrush nest in their garden and have watched the fledglings being fed snails and slugs.

This is the height of the breeding season and there are numerous young blackbirds, starlings and blue tits trying to avoid cats and a pair of resident sparrow hawks. A handful of swallows and four swifts have made it back to the village, also a hobby, a rare summer visitor, has been spotted. You will have enjoyed the bird song this spring, which unfortunately will tail off soon. July will bring more daylight, warmer evenings and bats!



Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

On the farm, May is a month to take things a little easier, catching up with jobs like planting swedes, doing accounts, tidying up after the winter and collecting/sawing timber to dry out before next winter.

I start June by shearing the sheep, as removing their wool should be done as soon as possible in the summer. Sheep are at risk of 'rigging' when they have a full fleece. That is when they lie down, roll onto their backs and cannot get up due to the weight of their wool. After a few hours they would die unless I roll them back on to their feet. Once upright, they stagger around for a while before returning to the flock.

Green grass is harvested for silage in early June, and then for hay, later in the month, when it is dry and seeded.

By Revd. Jenni Lane

As the weeks pass by I find some days are productive and some, to quote a favourite saying, 'I put my laundry in the oven.' Some days I begin with renewed determination and others with a feeling of dismay. Apparently this is normal.

Archbishop Justin Welby said it is important we support the lonely and isolated of all ages. I think there are times when we all feel a little of this. Consequently, the Church of England has set up a **Daily Hope Line** offering music, prayers, reflections and full worship services, available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**.

Options include Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer, updated daily from Common Worship and a recording of the Church of England weekly national online service. Hymn Line has a selection of hymns, and 'Hymns We Love', provides a hymn and reflection.

So, on your 'putting the laundry in the oven' days, do try the **Daily Hope Line**.

Rev'd Jenni Lane can be contacted at the Rectory on 01609 631 122

Scruton's Stay-at-Home VE Day



Thank you to everyone who sent pictures of their 'Stay-at-Home' street party on VE Day and apologies for those the editor didn't have space to include.

From the Parish Council

Grass Cutting Caution! - The grass cutters have asked that children should not play on the grass areas whilst cutting is in progress. The grass is cut every second Tuesday (usually between 1pm – 2pm) and on a recent occasion, some children were trying to outrun the machines - **very risky!!!**

Can you help?

Alan Harpley is working on a model ship and needs a wood turning lathe. Any condition, preferably with a motor. Please call 748 712 if you can help.



Look Back in Time

A New Feature by the 'Time Traveller'

Twenty Years ago – The Millennium celebrations were in full swing with a Flower Festival and Concert at St. Radegund's Church and a Millennium Ball held in the marquee. A Millennium Book was produced and a photograph of everyone assembled on the Green.

The book is displayed in St. Radegund's Church and can be viewed when the church is open again. The Millennium Wall Hanging was completed by a Working Party and hung in the Village Hall. When the Hall is open once again, look to see if your house is featured.



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 June.

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

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