

# Scruton News

Scruton Parish Council

Sept. 2020

[www.scruton.net](http://www.scruton.net)



## Scruton Sky at Night

by Peter Williams

Darkening nights now make for better viewing of the evening skies and it is interesting to note that there are proposals to designate parts of the Yorkshire Dales as a Dark Sky Reserve. Full Moon is on the 2nd Sept. and is often called the "Harvest Moon", since its light was used to assist in farm work prior to mechanisation.

During the morning of the 6th there is a beautiful close conjunction between the Moon and Mars, when the two are separated by only one degree. The sight of the two together in the sky will be spectacular to the unaided eye and in binoculars. In fact from the Mediterranean area, Mars will appear to pass behind the Moon.

The Autumnal Equinox on 22nd Sept. marks the official start of Autumn. Day and night are almost equal in length again. The 3 space craft I mentioned last month are all now well on their way to Mars, and if you want to participate in the next main launch in 2026, just search 'Send your name to Mars' and you can be 'on board'. You can also print off a Boarding Pass – just a bit of fun for the kids!

## Scruton Potato Challenge The Big Weigh In

At the start of lockdown we gave out bags and seed potatoes to anyone who was up for a challenge to grow the biggest weight of potatoes in one bag. The prizes up for grabs are: 1st prize of £15, second £10 and third £5.

On Sunday 6th September at 1:00 pm we will hold the big weigh in. Due to current restrictions, people should drop their bags at the entrance to the playing field; we will take the bags, weigh them and release the results that day. We will have a trailer at the gate where bags can be left with your name and contact number clearly marked on them. We will return the bags with potatoes back to the gate so people can collect their crop after 3 pm.

You are most welcome to stay for the weigh in as long as social distancing rules are respected. Chris Snell (Tel. 07767 357 173)



## Nature Notes

By Andy Johnston

Summer came to a sudden stop on Bank Holiday weekend with strong northerly winds significantly reducing the air temperature. Despite this we still have a handful of nesting house martins and a pair of swallows. The swifts left at the end of August but most unusually one pair nested late in the season and did not leave until the evening of Wednesday 26th, ahead of the storm.



On leaving the nest young swifts will not put their feet on the ground for four years, feeding and sleeping on the wing. On reaching West Africa they will spend time refuelling and then head off on a grand tour of Africa spending Christmas in Mozambique and then starting the return journey north via the Congo and then West Africa for a few weeks of refuelling before the last leg to Scruton!! This will only take two or three weeks. They have been known to fly 5,000 kilometres in 5 days!!

The winter migrants will start to arrive before the end of September, first redwings then fieldfares.

## St Radegund's Church

**Harvest Festival** – Donations of produce for Hambleton Foodshare can be left at The Green, Scruton.

For the latest requirements, please check the website (click on the list of shortages):

[www.hambletonfoodshare.org.uk](http://www.hambletonfoodshare.org.uk)

**Church Services** - Upcoming services at St Radegund's Church (all Covid-19 secure, starting at 9:30 am) are:

6 Sep.	Holy Communion
13 Sep.	Holy Communion
20 Sep.	Harvest Morning Worship
27 Sep.	Holy Communion
4 Oct.	Morning Worship



## Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

As I sit here on a rainy late August evening the summer seems to be slipping away. August, in this area, is often the wettest month of the year, with conversely, February being the driest. This February was an exception to that rule.

Around the bank holiday at the end of August we usually get a spell of dry weather which normally stays throughout September, and this is the time to finish the cereal harvest which this year is the lowest yielding of any that I remember. You may have noticed tall green weeds standing proud of the corn. This is a weed called Fat Hen which was grown as a crop during the Iron Age and Roman period. The shadows of the past are still showing across the land.

Potatoes are now showing signs of senescence which is the stage where the canopy dies back and the nutrients from the leaves flow back to the roots and particularly the tubers (the parts we eat) helping them grow.

## Stay Safe Online

In the current climate, it is especially important to stay safe online. Dr John Elmer (a top UK Cyber Security Consultant) has the following simple tips to ensure you don't fall foul of fraudsters trying to scam you out of your hard earned money:

1. Always check the address an email comes from, especially if it appears to be from your bank or online retailer (like Apple or Amazon).
2. Your bank will never ask for personal details over the phone; if you are suspicious, call them back using the number on the back of your card.
3. Try, as much as possible, to use different passwords for different sites, especially online banking, PayPal etc.
4. Passwords with three random words are harder to break and easier to remember (e.g. BananaPhoneLamp12).
5. Use a credit card for online purchases, they offer extra protection and are easier to recover your money from. *Never* pay for goods with direct bank transfers.

## Christmas Card 2020

St Radegund's Church Council is pleased to announce that the Village Christmas Card will go ahead this year and is grateful to William (Billy) Holmes who has kindly donated a water colour image 'A View of Scruton Under Snow' for us to use.



For newcomers: a village Christmas card is produced annually and in return for a donation, all residents are invited to write their Christmas greetings on a signature sheet, copies of which are distributed with the card, to every house in the Parish.

The card (without signatures) is also available to purchase for your own use at £5 per pack of six cards (7" x 5"). All proceeds from card sales and signature donations will this year be in aid of St Radegund's Church Fabric Fund.

The sale of cards and collection of your signed greetings will be organised differently this year, since there will not be the normal village events before Christmas. A special flyer with further details and a copy of the Christmas card image will be distributed to every household along with next month's newsletter (October). There will be an order form, should you wish to purchase any packs of cards, and space to write your Christmas greeting which you may return along with your payment/donation.

## Letters to the Editor

*New Feature*

**More dog waste bins please** - Judith Jackson, Registered Veterinary Nurse (retired) writes:

The number of dogs living in Scruton has increased a lot over the past few years and although most owners are responsible and clean up after their dogs, a few are leaving dog faeces on paths, in fields and on tracks. I saw a man picking up after his dog only to deposit the mess in the hedge (out of sight etc.) This is both unsightly and unhygienic. The gentleman in question did not seem to understand the difference between muck spread on the land by farmers, the waste of herbivores and the dog mess left by neglectful owners; carnivore muck. I have heard of a number of dogs in the village suffering from stomach upsets, an illness that can be caused by faeces left by neglectful owners not cleaning up correctly. If there were more dog waste bins around the village hopefully more people would use them; towards the end of Common Lane would be a very good position.

**Response from the Parish Council** – We will contact HDC to see if they can provide additional bins. The Dog Warden did issue 3 warnings on a recent visit, but the problem persists.

*Note from the editor – letters sent to Scruton News may be edited prior to publication.*

## One Hour Free Parking!

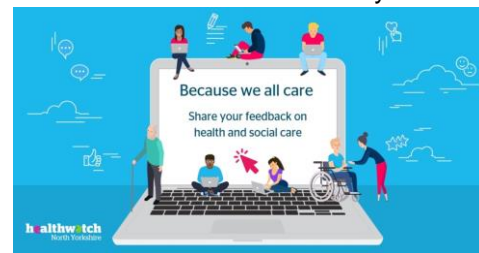
As a result of a petition received from Northallerton BID, NYCC have decided that **one hour free parking** will apply in Northallerton High Street from 1st September until 31st December 2020.

## Flying at RAF Leeming

There will be increased aircraft movement for an exercise taking place at RAF Leeming from 29 August to 30 September 2020. RAF Leeming will be hosting various exercising multi-national, tri-service aircraft throughout the period. Low flying for short periods may be necessary, along with some night flying. For more information, contact RAF Leeming on 01677 457281

## #BecauseWeAllCare

Claire Canavan is hoping to reach people in the Scruton area with a message about 'Healthwatch North Yorkshire', which is a registered charity and the independent public voice for people using local health and social care services across the county.



Our new campaign aims to help services recover from Covid-19 by identifying and addressing the issues people are experiencing with their care.

You can get involved by telling us your views about how health and social care support can be improved. To take our quick survey, please visit the website (see below) or call 01904 552 687 (we are happy to ring you back).

[www.healthwatchnorthyorkshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchnorthyorkshire.co.uk)

## Studio Artwork Sale

Sue Harpley is having a studio sale of her Artwork on 1st to 14th September. Please phone 01609 748 712 to make an appointment to view. No obligation.

## 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](mailto:stephen.elmer@scruton.net)

The deadline for the next edition is 23 Sept.

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

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