

Scruton News

Scruton Parish Council

December 2021



www.scruton.net

Scruton News wishes all our readers a Happy Christmas and a Safe New Year

Special thanks go to regular contributors, Malcolm Barker, Andy Johnston and Peter Williams; also to Sue Harpley, Sue Latter, Jane Meeres, Gordon McQuillen, Margaret Sharp and Joan Walker who distribute Scruton News in all weather; and to Richard Zealley for the printing.

Scruton Christmas Card

Don't miss out on the Village Christmas cards! There are a few packs of the smaller cards (6"x4") still available to purchase. Please remember that the deadline for signatures for the Village Christmas Card is Friday 10 December. Call Joan Walker on 748 458 or email keithandjoanwalker@gmail.com



Saint Nicholas returns to Scruton

**Monday 6 December
7pm at St Radegund's**

Join us for an evening of festive music and verse with mulled wine & mince pies as you depart. A retiring collection will be in aid of the Church Fabric Fund. Contact Marilyn Ewart (748 272) for details.

12 Days of Christmas

Scruton has come up trumps and filled all the slots for a walking tour of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Exhibits will appear sequentially on a daily basis from 13 December and remain until 6 January.

Phil & Karen Johnson will start with a Partridge in a Pear Tree in Wainscot Place, followed by...



- 2 - Turtle Doves at Mallards
- 3 - French Hens in Silver Street
- 4 - Calling Birds in Beech Close
- 5 - Gold Rings at The Lodge
- 6 - Geese a-laying in Peacocks Close
- 7 - Swans a-swimming in Wainscot Pl.
- 8 - Maids a-milking in Beech Close
- 9 - Ladies Dancing at Forge Cottage
- 10 - Lords a-leaping in Wainscot Place
- 11 - Pipers Piping at the Starlings
- 12 - Drummers Drumming at Greenways

Thankful Fireworks

The organisers of the Thankful Firework and Bonfire evening have written to thank everyone who supported the event which raised over £700! One young spectator was heard to say, 'miles better than Harrogate's fireworks!' The pyrotechnic crew say that next year's event on Sat 12 November will be *even bigger and better!*

Scruton's Pyrotechnic Crew



Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

Gale force winds and snow signalled the end to yet another mild, dry autumn. Benign weather meant that many garden flowers were still in bloom. Now we should have winter thrushes around the village but reports from Scandinavia suggest that flocks of fieldfares have still to migrate, probably due to the mild weather and lack of snow. A sudden cold snap with north winds will bring whooper swans and pink footed geese south, using the Swale Valley as a route. Do look out for them. Those of you with feeders should expect an influx of birds over the next few weeks. Chaffinches will be regular visitors but there has been an eruption of bramblings from the continent. They are similar to chaffinches but more colourful and tend to mix together.



Male Brambling

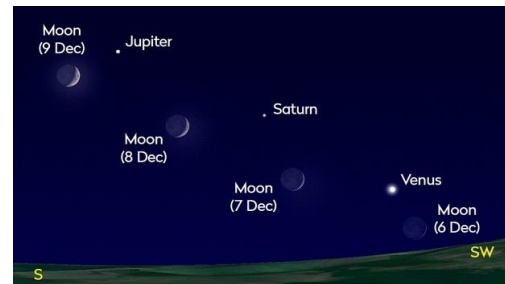
White-tailed eagles have returned this year, and 2 have been hunting rabbits in the Snilesworth area of the North Yorks Moors. For details see Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation where there are super graphics of their travels.



Scruton Sky at Night

by Peter Williams

This month there will be a magnificent parade of planets after dark. The new Moon on 4 Dec. means that for a few nights there should be excellent viewing, since moonlight will not obscure the fainter stars. After sunset the planets can be seen towards the western horizon. Jupiter will be shining high in the south and Venus low in the southwest, with Saturn in between. A slim, crescent Moon will pass along the line of planets on successive evenings, visiting Venus on 6 Dec. It will be between Venus and Saturn on 7 Dec. appearing as a slightly larger crescent, and between Saturn and Jupiter on 8 Dec. as a quarter-lit moon. Finally, on 9 Dec. a third-lit Moon will be in conjunction with Jupiter. Altogether a wonderful sight over a few nights.



The Winter Solstice on 21 December is regarded as the first day of winter and the shortest day of the year.



Farming News

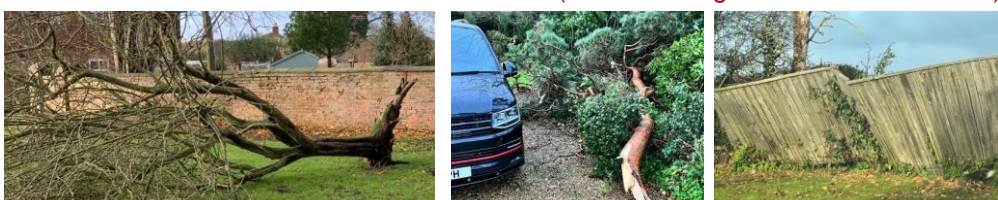
by Malcolm Barker

We have had a wonderful autumn, with trees holding their leaves until quite late and the colours, in particular the beech leaves, giving a golden aura to the passing summer. My fodder beet has been harvested which is the final job of the year. We now spend time chopping firewood, servicing machinery, cleaning ditches, repairing fences and bagging potatoes for sale (see below).

In November the main talking point for farmers was the rising cost of fertiliser, from around £275 to £690 per ton. If prices stay high, then farmers may stop buying it altogether leading to lower yields and food shortages with much higher food prices. The more probable outcome will be that smaller amounts of fertiliser are bought leading to lower yields with some food shortages and slightly higher food prices in 2022.

Potatoes for Sale - Poor yields mean my potatoes are now £9/sack (25kg) or £5/half sack (12.5kg). White varieties are Valor & Eurostar; the reds are Rudolph.

STOP PRESS - Storm Arwen hits Scruton (Photos: Village Green & Old Stables)





Christmas at St Radegund's

All services on Sunday at 9:30 am except where stated. Rev'd Jenni Lane can be contacted on 01609 631122.

Our Christmas Appeal for Hambleton Foodshare has begun. See Network Scruton for further details.

- 5 Dec** Morning Worship Paul
- 12 Dec** Holy Communion Jenni
- 19 Dec** Carols on the Green, mulled wine & mince pies at the Lychgate
- 24 Dec** Christmas Eve (Fri) Jenni
Benefice Holy Communion (11:30pm)
- 25 Dec** Christmas Day (Sat) Jenni
Family Service with Holy Communion (10:30am at Ainderby Steeple)
- 2 Jan** Morning Worship Paul



Coffee Mornings

The Mini Christmas Market was a great success! Thank you to Helen, Fiona, Gemma & Graham who organised the event. Thanks also to everyone who helped with and supported our Cake Stall, Tombola and Refreshments which raised £450 for Dementia UK.

There will be an extra Coffee Morning at the **Village Hall on Saturday 18th December, 10am-12.** As it's so close to Christmas, there will be no Raffle or Cake Stall. For further information or to offer help, please contact Jacqueline Mainwaring-Taylor on 01609 748 617.



Kirkby Fleetham Women's Institute

Join us for a Christmas Special evening with entertainment at our next meeting on **9 December, 7:15pm at Kirkby Fleetham Village Hall.** Contact Carol Barron on 01609 748 315 or email: carolinesboxes@gmail.com



Chris Snell From the Family

We would like to thank everyone for all the love and support you have extended to us during this period of great sadness. We have deeply appreciated the cards, flowers, comforting words, hugs and the endless supply of tissues that have been required. Your visits, advice and practical help have meant a great deal to us, and we have found great comfort in the fact you have all been thinking of us. We really have been touched beyond words, and your kindness is not only a gift we will treasure, but one that will be long remembered by the whole family.

With love Jane, George & Alice



Letters to the Editor

Dog Mess – Two people have written to ask that dog owners pick up after their animals. In particular they mention Ham Hall Lane and the walk alongside Glebe Barn off Station Road, where dog fouling has increased. One owner became quite confrontational after being challenged about the mess left by their dog. Dog faeces left in public places is not only antisocial but poses a real threat to health as the roundworm parasites in dog excrement can cause serious illness especially in young children.

Reasons not to be cheerful – The waste shown below was dumped in Fence Dyke Lane. Have you had a delivery of Raj Green paving slabs recently?



Screen Scruton

Screening was due to return in January but in light of the recent news about the Covid Omicron variant, a decision will now be deferred until the new year.

From the Parish Council

Ham Hall Lane - The new drainage pipe taking the water from Ham Hall Lane is now complete and an additional blockage cleared, so the flooding issue has hopefully been resolved.

Trees - The dead willow in Common Lane has been felled. One dead hawthorn has fallen after storm Arwen, and another will be felled shortly.

Salt Bin - After consultations with residents, a new salt bin will be sited at the western end of the village near the bus stop.

Snickets - Concerns have been raised about the snickets and footpaths which we believe may be the responsibility of NYCC. We are seeking clarity on this point and whether NYCC are prepared to help with their maintenance. If the responsibility lies with SPC we will seek to maintain them as cost effectively as possible but we do not have funds to fully tarmac the snickets.

Parish Precept - We have incurred a number of unforeseen expenditures (including the unscheduled election for the new County Council & PC elections in May 2022, for which we have to pay) and with the possible expenditure outlined above, so regrettably we have no option other than to increase the Precept. This increase will equate to about £2.50 per household per year.

Station Road Footpath - We have not received many expressions of support for the proposed footpath from the Station to the A684. The scheme will be expensive and will not go ahead unless it is supported by the village. Please let us know if you are for or against the footpath (see below for contact details/emails).

Deadline for the next edition is 23 Dec.

Email: stephen.elmer@scruton.net

(The editor reserves the right to make changes for editorial purposes)

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North Yorkshire County Councillor

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

Parish Council Meetings 2022

Subject to Covid restrictions, meetings are normally held on the second Thursday of alternate months at the Coore Memorial Hall, starting at 7:30 pm with a 10 minute open forum for the public who are welcome to attend.

13 January 2022

10 March 2022

14 April 2022 (Annual Parish Meeting)

12 May 2022 (AGM)



- Website: www.scruton.net
- Twitter: [@ScrutonVillage](https://twitter.com/ScrutonVillage)
- Email: stephen.elmer@scruton.net
- Facebook: [Scruton Community Page](https://www.facebook.com/ScrutonCommunityPage)