

Scruton News

Scruton Parish Council

Jan. 2021

www.scruton.net



End of Year Reflections

Scruton residents were asked, 'what one thing stands out for you from 2020 and what do you most look forward to in 2021?' The replies are below...

Looking Back on 2020

- The kindness of family, friends and neighbours.
- The safe birth of our youngest grand-daughter, Daisy Grace.
- The degree to which ordinary people have obeyed the rules.
- The generosity shown by the residents of Scruton.
- Support for the fireworks.
- The community spirit at the VE Day 'stay-at-home' street party.
- Groceries and take-away food from the Coore Arms in lockdown.
- Finding Greenways in Scruton and having our offer accepted!
- During isolation many people have re-discovered solace in books, music and nature. I hope it lasts.
- Coming together for the service of Remembrance on the Green.



Past

Future

Looking Forward to 2021

- Freedom from restrictions about what we can do.
- Moving to Greenways in January and becoming fully-fledged members of the community!
- Completing my house renovation.
- Simply shaking hands again.
- Not having to wear a mask and going to the pub for a beer.
- Coffee mornings with friends.
- I look forward to freedom.
- Going away for a holiday.
- I most look forward to hugging my children and grandchildren.
- Meeting up with WI friends again.
- 2021 - Just bring it on!

Wishing Everyone a Safe New Dawn in 2021



Sunrise over Swaledale (John Elmer, 30 December 2020)



Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

January was named after the Roman god Janus whose head had two faces, one looking forward into the coming year and the other facing backwards to the old year. I was born in January, which may be why I have a fascination with both history (looking back) and with science (looking to the future).

Few people had a good 2020. From a farming perspective, I would sum up the year as a drought sandwiched between two very wet spells. The harvest was poor and difficult but somehow most of it was gathered in. The last of my potatoes were picked on 28 November while it was cold and wet. Although I was frozen from the shoulders down, I was nevertheless elated to finish harvesting them.

What of next year? Change is on the horizon. Everyone is relying on science to make the future safe with a vaccine. I also feel that society needs to change. The real heroes of this year have been the health care workers who have put their lives at risk and the scientists who have developed and tested the vaccines. They helped us through this last year far more than celebrities and politicians, and I hope they are rewarded for their efforts.

On my farm, things are also changing. I'm feeling my age nowadays and have worked 100 hour weeks for too many years. Although I don't ever intend to retire (that is fatal for a farmer) I look forward to an easier life and will alter the workload to suit my age. After all, none of us are getting any younger.



Nature Notes

By Andy Johnston

Following a forty-year long upward trend, 2020 may have been the warmest year on record in the UK. The impact on nature is incremental and slow changes are not very obvious.

Trees are coming into leaf and birds are nesting earlier. Some birds, such as wood pigeons and collared doves, are nesting all year round. Flowers are blooming out of season. I have lupins, roses, heuchera, hebe and primulas all in flower and my unprotected rhubarb is at least eight inches tall. Many birds have stopped migrating, including greylag geese, curlew and the occasional black cap and chiffchaff. We currently have over four hundred curlew, who would normally go to the coast, wintering along the Swale.



Great white egret

Birds such as the little egret, which were uncommon ten years ago, are now seen here regularly; one has been spotted feeding in the field opposite the pub. A great white egret has also been seen at Romanby Golf Course and in Bolton on Swale in the last two weeks.

What of the future? A continued influx of wildlife from the south, red kite, Cetti's warbler, ring-neck parakeet, hummingbird hawk-moth and Egyptian geese - one was seen recently on flood land at the rear of Morton Flatts Farm.

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch - don't forget to take part on 29 - 31 January. For details, go to: www.rspb.org.uk

Wishing you all love and peace for 2021. A New Year dawns, with new challenges, but may it be a positive and joyful one. The words of Julian of Norwich spring to mind: "God did not say, 'You shall not be tempest-tossed, you shall not be work-weary, you shall not be discomforted'. But he said, 'You shall not be overcome.' God wants us to heed these words so that we shall always be strong in trust, both in sorrow and in joy."

Church Services

Upcoming services at St Radegund's Church are all Covid-19 secure and begin at 9:30 am, as follows:

3 Jan.	Morning Worship	(Paul)
10 Jan.	Holy Communion	(Jenni)
17 Jan.	Holy Communion	(Jenni)
24 Jan.	Morning Worship	(Paul)
31 Jan.	Morning Worship	(Paul)
7 Feb.	Holy Communion	(Jenni)
14 Feb.	Holy Communion	(Jenni)

If there are any changes, details will be circulated on **Network Scruton**.



Letters to the Editor

Joyce Williams writes, 'Having been St Radegund's Church organist for over 21 years, I will greatly miss playing each Sunday. Thank you to everyone, not just church members but villagers as well, who generously contributed to a retirement collection for me. I was very touched by this'.

Trevor Howe has written to say that a DVD of a very sunny Scruton in 2020 is available to borrow. Also available is a DVD of our Thankful Village in 2019. If interested call Trevor on 748 355

Found in 2020 Crackers

What is Dominic Cummings' Christmas song? - *Driving home for Christmas.*

Why did Mary & Joseph not get to Bethlehem? - *All Virgin flights cancelled.*

Why did the pirates go into lockdown? - *Because the 'Arrrr' rate had risen.*

What did the Trumps do for Xmas dinner? - *They put on a super-spread.*

Why didn't Mary & Joseph join the video call? - *There was no Zoom at the inn.*

Christmas Card Success

St Radegund's Church Council are very pleased to report that the 2020 village Christmas card has been a great success. Many thanks go to everyone who purchased cards and gave generous donations for signature greetings. We are also grateful to Billy Holmes who supplied the image, to Stephen Elmer for his technical 'wizardry', and specially to Joan Walker for organising it all! As a result of this year's efforts, the Church Fabric Fund will be boosted by over £1,000 plus gift aid which will be claimed on donations.

Prints of this year's card (a view of Scruton under Snow) can still be ordered up to **22 January**. They will be supplied in ivory mounts (ready for framing) and are available in two sizes, now priced at:

£20 for A4 size (in a 16" x 12" mount)

£30 for A3 size (in a 20" x 16" mount)

Contact Joan Walker on 748 458 or email: keithandjoanwalker@gmail.com

From the Parish Council

The Parish Council thanks residents who submitted ideas for dealing with the flooding problems at Morton Bridge. Discussions are ongoing with Highways about traffic management during flooding, and with the Environment Agency about flood prevention.



Scruton Sky at Night

by Peter Williams

A full moon on 28 January is the only special event this month. However, the night sky is very dark and there should be excellent views of the Milky Way on clear nights.

Looking back at 2020 - there were 3 'supermoons' during the year and the comet Neowise made an appearance in August. In October, there was an amazing mission to collect samples from asteroid Bennu (due to return to Earth in 2023). The collected material would have been present at the formation of the Solar System and so will be interesting to study.

Perhaps the most devastating news was the catastrophic collapse in December of the Arecibo Radio Telescope in Puerto Rico. The telescope was constructed in the early 60's and has contributed to many astronomical discoveries, as well as being the backdrop in several films!

Closer to home, there was the good news that the Yorkshire Dales and the NY Moors National Parks have been awarded Dark Sky Reserve status, which should benefit tourism.

Looking forward to 2021 - three significant missions (launched in 2020) from the UAE, China and the USA will all arrive at Mars in February 2021. There is also the expected launch of the James Webb space telescope in October. This new telescope is the replacement for the Hubble telescope, which is coming to the end of its useful and fantastic life. There will also be a partial solar eclipse visible from Scruton on 10 June.

Keep reading this column for more news; I hope you find it interesting.

Parish Council Meetings 2021

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 Jan.

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

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