

Scruton News

Scruton Parish Council

January 2022

www.scruton.net



We wish all our readers a happy, safe and especially a healthy New Year!



Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

The weather in 2021 was extraordinary. After a cold, wet winter, April and May were the coldest for thirty years and unusually dry. April was dominated by high pressure with sunny days and cold, frosty nights. These conditions coincided with the height of the bird breeding season and left birds with insufficient food for their young, leading to many failed nests. Fewer swallows and house martins returned and they left early after nesting. The highlight of the breeding season were the 9 swifts who increased their number, taking advantage of the good summer weather which extended into the autumn. The long spell of good weather helped garden flowers, vegetables and butterflies, especially the large whites!

The British Trust for Ornithology have released their preliminary 2021 report which says '...it has been disastrous for most species'. On a brighter note, Elizabeth Davies had a brambling visiting her feeders and I have spotted tits, finches and bullfinches on mine.

'Elgie' Update

In January 2020 we included an item about a blue tit at Glebe Cottage. Richard & Jane Meeres report that 'Elgie' is still happily roosting in their porch light for a third year! Elgie is a most discerning bird, occasionally pooing on some of the more distasteful headlines (e.g. about the goings on in Westminster) in the newspapers left below her winter sleeping quarters!



Ed - Don't forget the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch on 28 - 30 January.

12 Days of Christmas

There have been many appreciative comments about the interpretations of the 12 Days of Christmas. Thank you to everyone who took part and we hope villagers enjoyed walking to see them. - *A flyer from Janet Crampton outlining her new idea for Advent 2022 has been delivered along with this newsletter.*



Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

An email from Joan Walker, who was reading a book about the history of the Women's Land Army, asked if I was aware that my farm (Moor House) had been '...managed and run entirely by women' during WWI? It was one of only two farms in the whole country (the other in Devon) to be run by women.

I remember talking to Owen Miles who farmed here until my father bought the farm in 1954. Owen told me that he lived next door at Moor Cottage during the Great War and was put in charge of the farm, which was derelict after years of neglect. He spoke about the Land Girls and how he often worked late to finish jobs begun by the girls when they got tired, but I wasn't aware that the girls were running the farm.

When Owen moved to Moor House, he brought with him an apple tree which still grows in our garden.



Thankful Ale

Over 190 cases and 15 mini kegs have been sold. All profits go to the Village Hall for the benefit of the community.

Free Local Delivery - for orders, contact Richard Burton-White (Chalky) 07545 123 856, via Facebook Messenger or Scruton WhatsApp Group.



Scruton Sky at Night

by Peter Williams

On 7 January the planet Mercury reaches its greatest eastern elongation, which means that it appears to us to be in the furthest part of its orbit from the Sun. This will be the best time to observe it; look low in the western sky just after sunset. Venus on the other hand is steadily moving towards the Sun and will change from an evening to an early morning object, becoming less obvious in the sky.

On 17 January there will be a full Moon. This particular Moon was known by early native American tribes as the 'Wolf Moon' since it was the time of the year when hungry pack wolves howled outside their camps.

Reasons to be Cheerful



Joyce & Peter Williams write about the pride they have in their daughter Julie (pen name Jessica Redland), a successful authoress of 13 books. Her latest, 'Snowflakes Over the Starfish Cafe', has been in the top 100 Amazon Kindle sales for several weeks. The Works have stocked several of her books which sell out quickly. Julie's 14th book, 'A Wedding at Hedgehog Hollow', will be on sale from 6 January.

Dates for your Diary

Please look out for messages on **Network Scruton** for the latest information about Omicron restrictions.



Church Services at St Radegund's

All services on Sunday at 9:30 am except where stated. Rev'd Jenni Lane can be contacted on 01609 631 122.

- 9 Jan** No Service at Scruton *
- 12 Jan** Evensong (Wed 7 pm) Jenni
- 16 Jan** Holy Communion Jenni
- 23 Jan** No Service at Scruton *
- 30 Jan** Holy Communion Jenni
- 6 Feb** No Service at Scruton **

Alternative services at Kirkby Fleetham

* United Morning Worship at 10 am

** Holy Communion at 11 am



Coffee Mornings

The next Coffee Morning will be a **Festive Get Together on Saturday 15 January, 10am-12** at the Village Hall. If you have any surplus Christmas fare, please bring it along as a change from the usual biscuits. There will be Donations for Charity but no Raffle or Cake Stall. For details call Jacqueline Mainwaring-Taylor on 01609 748 617.



S.L.E.D.

Due to Omicron, Susan Rogers has decided to cancel the January SLED and hopes to resume in February.



Kirkby Fleetham Women's Institute

Join us for a Members Evening on **Thursday 13 January 2022, 7:15pm** at **Kirkby Fleetham Village Hall**. Call Carol Barron on 01609 748 315 or email: carolinesboxes@gmail.com

Christmas Card Success!

St Radegund's Church Council is pleased to report that the 2021 Village Christmas Card raised £1,292 for St Radegund's Church Fabric Fund.

Thank you to everyone who bought cards and gave generous donations for signature greetings. Special thanks go to Joan Walker who organised the whole endeavour, to Stephen Elmer for his technical support, and to all the team who delivered cards to every household in the Parish.

St Nicholas Night



Thank you to all those who supported the St. Nicholas Night event, when Andy Johnson took a break from Nature Notes to play St Nicholas.

Marilyn Ewart reports that around £300 was collected for the Church Fabric Fund.



Letters to the Editor

Avryl Pearson writes, 'Thank you to all those who sent cards, flowers and get well wishes after my hip replacement. Thanks also to wonderful neighbours and friends for ferrying me to & from hospital, putting out bins, delivering supplies & prescriptions, and even baking a Christmas cake! We are blessed to live in a village with such caring people.'

Northallerton Country Markets – David Graham emails to say that Northallerton Country Markets are looking for new members willing to bake products to sell. They hope to open on the first and last Friday of the month in 2022. For information call Mrs Holmes on 01845 597 507.

From the Parish Council

Snicketts - SPC thank all those (the 'snicketeers') who helped to spread sand on the Beech Close Snicketts. This is an interim measure until a more permanent solution can be found.

Station Road Footpath - To date we have only received half a dozen indications of support for the proposed footpath from the station to the A684, which unfortunately is insufficient to warrant the expenditure. If you would like to see this proposal go ahead, then please contact us to show your support.

Trees - There has also been little support for planting trees in the village as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Trees capture carbon dioxide and add to the rural setting of our village, so please let us know if you wish us to apply to have a tree planted.

May Elections - We have contacted HDC to clarify the conflicting messages received about the cost for the May elections, and contrary to a letter from NYCC, SPC will not be liable for the cost of the Parish Council election.

Thank you - We would like to belatedly thank our County Councillor, Annabel Wilkinson, for facilitating a contribution to the cost of the new water drainage pipeline in the Playing Fields. We also thank Hambleton DC for responding to our request for the road sweeper to attend and clean our roads.

Solar Farm - Hambleton Planning have informed us that their independent agricultural land quality survey of the proposed solar installation site has revealed that the bulk of the land is classed grade two, best most versatile as described on the DEFRA website.

Finally SPC would like to offer the season's greetings and a Happy New Year to all Parishioners.

Deadline for the next edition is 23 January

Email: stephen.elmer@scruton.net

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

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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)



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