

Scruton News

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December 2023



Happy Christmas to all our Readers

Village Christmas Card

The deadline for returning your village greeting/signature sheets to Joan Walker (24 The Parklands) is **Friday 8 Dec.**

Cards are still available for sale or if you need a replacement signature sheet/flyer contact Joan on 01609 748458 or email keithandjoanwalker@gmail.com



Advent Displays

If you would like your decorated windows and gardens included on the map of Christmassy decorations to walk around during Advent and Christmas, please let Janet Crampton know on 07540 503 030 or email janetcrampton@icloud.com

The displays don't have to have any specific theme, although something connected to Advent or Christmas and winter celebrations would be fun and festive and ideally on show throughout the whole of December.



Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

Late Saturday night at the end of Nov. finds me sitting in front of my laptop, pondering, 'What have I managed to get done during this last month of rain?' We did manage to get the fodder beet harvested early in the month, which will feed the cows for the rest of winter. The beet will also feed the ewes around lambing time because the sugars in the beet help to prevent pregnancy toxemia during the cold winter days when energy demands are highest. After lambing, the beet also helps each ewe to produce milk to feed her lambs.

Although my potatoes were planted on one of the driest fields on the farm, I have had to leave them in the ground until drier weather comes. I used some of the rainiest days to park the harvester indoors so that we could remove and repair a 'worn out' gearbox. The machine is almost 40 years old so I can't complain if one of its gearboxes needed a rebuild. Because I did the work myself, the parts were relatively inexpensive.

I haven't chopped any logs this month because the woodland is flooded and most of the fallen trees are waterlogged.

Amazing Jazz Night!



Scruton's very own Jazz & Blues Band was a tremendous success, playing to a capacity crowd at the village hall. A wonderful night of entertainment plus a superb hot supper. Well done Susan and all the crew and the catering team. We want more please!!!



Scruton Sky at Night

by Graham Dodds

Clear night skies in December will bring a few things for us to enjoy.

Meteors - Visible southward, the Geminid meteor shower is active between 4-17 December. Expect 60-70 meteors per hour. Due to the presence of trace metals (sodium, calcium) white, yellow and perhaps red, blue or green meteors will be on show.

Constellations - Close to Gemini is the constellation of Orion (The Hunter in classical mythology). Visible southeast and south (as the month progresses) its 'sword' (the group of stars below the main 'belt') contains the M42 nebula, a beautiful sight and visible using small 8 x 30mm binoculars or a 60mm telescope.



Planets - Jupiter continues to be dominant, look for it in a southerly direction on 21/22 Dec when it is close to a waxing gibbous Moon. Venus is the brightest object in the pre-dawn south-east. Mercury may be visible at the end of the month, faint and close to the horizon to the lower left of Venus. The Moon will be close to the Pleiades (or Seven Sisters), a lovely star cluster, on and just before Xmas Eve.

Finally, our shortest day/longest night, the 2023 winter solstice falls on 22 Dec.



Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

The autumn weather can be best summed up as wet, windy and warm, which has enabled many flowers to be still in bloom due to a lack of hard frosts. The first week in October saw the last of our local swallows, house martins and hobby leave for Africa and the arrival of field fares, redwings and blackbirds. After the breeding season blackbirds disappear from the village for a couple of months. One view is they go into the wider countryside. As someone who regularly walks the immediate countryside, I rarely, if ever see any. They must therefore migrate, but to where is a mystery.

This week I counted 9 hares cavorting in the field behind Scruton Grange. Rob Raine says he saw 45 one evening and that their numbers are increasing rapidly, possibly due to recent mild winters.



After over thirty years of dog walking along the Swale, Jane Meeres has seen her first otter by the recently formed cut-off, and Colin and Pauline Brewster have spotted a family of otters consisting of two adults and two cubs. Arthur Fawcett has seen a red kite on a couple of occasions, bats have been seen hunting along Fleetham Lane at dusk and five waxwings feeding on the yellow berries of our Joseph Rock rowan tree. These berries are favoured by many birds and there are two trees near the village green, one near the junction of Station Road and Common Lane, and the other in the garden of John and Jaqueline, facing the village green.

Thank You Slots

Susan Harpley – thanks everyone for making her birthday a wonderful day.

Stephen Elmer (editor) – thanks all those who contribute features and articles each month for Scruton News. Also, special thanks to the unsung heroes who distribute the newsletter throughout the year to every house, come rain or shine!



Services at St Radegund's

All services at St Radegund's are on Sunday at 9:30 am except where stated. The Rev. Jenni Lane may be contacted on 01609 631122.

- 3 Dec** Holy Communion, Jenni
- 10 Dec** Holy Communion, Jenni & Stasi

Christmas Services

- 12 Dec** Carol Service (Tue at 7 pm)
- 17 Dec** Carols on the Green (3:30 pm)
- 24 Dec** Midnight Holy Communion (11:30 pm), Jenni & Stasi
- 25 Dec** Benefice Family Service & Holy Communion (10:30am at Ainderby)
- 31 Dec** Morning Worship, Paul
- 7 Jan** Holy Communion, Jenni & Stasi

Hambleton Foodshare

Although it doesn't seem long since our last collection, there is still a need, so please support the Christmas Appeal from **1 to 12 December** and help to give families in need a better Christmas. More details to follow via Network Scruton or contact John (01609 748 617)



Coffee Morning

Please join us at our pre-Christmas Coffee Morning in the village hall, **10 - 12 on Sat 16 Dec**. Everyone is welcome.

Thanks to your support, we have raised almost £2,500 this year and donated to eight local and national charities.



Petrolheads

Completing a successful year, our next meeting will be on **Thurs 14 December**, 7:30 pm at the Coore Arms. Contact Alan on 01609 748 712 for details.



Lunch Club

The next Lunch Club is on **Sunday 17 December**, 12:30 pm at the Coore Arms. Please contact Alyson Tonge if you wish to participate, Tel 01609 748 227 or email alysontonge@gmail.com

Kirkby Fleetham WI

The next meeting on **Thursday 14 December** will be a Christmas Dinner for our members. For details call Carol Barron on 01609 748 315 or email carolinesboxes@gmail.com



Strollers & Striders

Walks take place every Monday morning. Look out for messages on Network Scruton or contact Janet Crampton for more details, 07540 503 030, email janetcrampton@icoud.com

Thankful Village Fireworks

The Pyro Squad report that this year's display was a resounding success with ideal weather and a record crowd of 470, which includes many from outside Scruton. Feedback from the public was excellent and over £2,000 was raised on the night from bucket collections and sales of drinks & hot food.

Scruton Pyro Squad would like to thank everyone who supported the event, the commercial sponsors, all those who helped on the night, and of course everyone who attended and donated so generously. Next year's Thankful Village Fireworks will be on **9 November 2024**, save the date in your diary now!



Screen Scruton

Wednesday 13 December
7:30 pm in the Village Hall



Starring Tom Hanks

With subtitles, café style seating, bring your own drinks & nibbles. Admission free (donations in aid of the village hall). Please email Stephen Elmer at stephen.elmer@scruton.net

From the Parish Council

By Cllr. Syd Nye (Chairman)

Village Green – We thank Kevin Proctor for clearing the leaves from the green prior to the Remembrance Service.

Common Lane - We received numerous complaints over the state of Common Lane and of the speed of some of the tractors during and after recent access to the fields. As a consequence, I met with the Farmer concerned and we agreed a way forward to prevent a similar occurrence in future.

Dog Mess (again!) - We have also received several complaints about increased dog fouling in the village, so we have invited the Dog Warden to increase the number of visits to Scruton. If you are a dog owner please clean up after your dogs, thank you.

Defibrillator - We have an offer of a donation towards the procurement of a second defibrillator, to be sited near the end of Common Lane. We are exploring a possible grant, and any other offers of donations would be appreciated.

Parish Precept - After considering the coming year's expenses, SPC have decided to increase the precept by 6.66%, which equates to an increase of £2 per household per year.

Silver Street - The repairs to the sink hole on the corner of Silver Street have been suspended until the water table level drops enough for work to recommence. We have written to Highways asking for a resolution to the flooding in Ham Hall Lane.

Coore Memorial Hall

The village hall diary is now computer based with a new email address.

All future enquiries please email
villagehall@scruton.net

Village hall committee contacts:
Chairman: John Mainwaring-Taylor
Treasurer: Michele Hargan
Secretary: Stephen Elmer

Scruton Parish Councillors

Chris Barron (Clerk)	01609 748 315	ronald.barron315@gmail.com
Maurice Daley	01609 748 198	maurice@mdpuk.co.uk
Trevor Howe	01609 748 355	tdhscruton@gmail.com
Syd Nye (Chair)	01609 748 464	syd@nyeref.co.uk
Mike Widmer	01609 748 392	mstonemole@gmail.com

North Yorkshire Councillor (Morton-on-Swale & Appleton Wiske)

Annabel Wilkinson 01677 426 744 cldr.annabel.wilkinson@northyorks.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings 2024

The public are welcome to attend council meetings in the Coore Memorial Hall, starting at 7:30 pm.

11 Jan, 14 March, 11 April (APM), 9 May (AGM)

Scruton News is published by Scruton Parish Council and edited by Stephen Elmer. Please note - the editor reserves the right to make changes for editorial reasons; some views may not be those of the Parish Council.

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To send messages please contact Janet Crampton on 07540 503030 or janetcrampton@icloud.com