

# Scruton News

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January 2023



*Best Wishes to all our readers for a Happy and Peaceful New Year*



## Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

Ten years ago the sight or a photo of an otter on the Swale would have made the local newspapers. Today they are more common than kingfishers, yet few people have seen one. The reason is that they are essentially nocturnal. An adult male or 'dog' otter can weigh in excess of 10 kilos and be 1 metre in length, it is a sizeable beast with an appetite to match, eating fish, eels, frogs and waterfowl.



Otters have a river territory which may stretch for miles dependant upon the availability of food. In addition they will explore surrounding becks, ditches and ponds and the overall size of their estate can be as much as 250 acres. On their night time excursions they come into conflict with humans. During the recent cold snap several villagers lost fish from their ponds to otters, their tracks clearly seen in the snow. Otters tend to go for large fish and koi carp are a favourite.

The recent snow revealed a fox which frequents Scruton. John Stubbs found tracks on the cricket field and followed them to Meadow Drive past his house. There are large flocks of redwings and fieldfares on fields around the village, you might see them, attracted by fallen apples, in your garden. January is a quiet month but many birds are pairing up ready for the breeding season. On warm days rooks will sit in pairs laying claim to nesting sites in the lime trees.

**Big Garden Bird Watch** – don't forget you can take part in the world's largest wildlife survey - the RSPB annual Big Garden Bird Watch for 2023 which runs from 27 to 29 January. Go online to the RSPB for details about how to take part.



## Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

As we leave the old year behind, I keep seeing online posts about what a horrible year 2022 was, but I think that in the next decade we may look back with nostalgia and accept that it wasn't so bad after all. Yes, it had its difficulties, but we did have a long hot summer when it eventually came and surely that lifts the spirits more than a cold wet summer.

On the farm, January is the month when we should start lambing. It is always a pleasure to see new life during the coldest months of the year and I still have not tired of this, even at the start of my 50th season. As a youngster I was a natural at delivering lambs because I had small hands and a strong grip so that I could hold on to the slimy legs of the prenatal lambs and deliver them with mostly successful results.

My apologies to anyone who had problems ringing me to order potatoes. BT changed our phone number without telling us in mid-November and we only found out when Joe rang and couldn't get through. We then had to wait another week to get our old number back. *Anyone still wishing to order potatoes should ring 01609 748627. £10 per sack (25kg) or £6 per half sack (12.5 kg) - Ed.*

## Village Christmas Card

**Thank You** – to everyone who made signature donations and bought Christmas cards. Special thanks to Joan Walker for organising the endeavour, to Stephen Elmer for his 'technical support' and to the whole team who distributed cards to every house in the parish!

Our Local Church Council are pleased to report that £1,128 (excl. gift aid) was raised in aid of the Church Fabric Fund.

**January Bargains!** – There are a few packs of cards still available. If you would like to get ahead of the game for next Christmas, packs of cards (7x5) are now half price at £3 each. Call 748 595 or email [stephen.elmer@Scruton.net](mailto:stephen.elmer@Scruton.net)



## Advent Displays

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Advent Window and Garden Displays in 2022. Scruton took up the challenge with enthusiasm and produced a wonderful variety of creative and imaginative ideas.



Anyone who is interested in taking part again next Christmas should contact Janet, 01609 748321 or 07540 503030.

## Sociable Warm Space

The Village Hall will be open from 10 am to 3.30 pm on **Monday 9 January** for any resident who wants to meet up with others for a chat, jigsaw session or perhaps a board game with a cup of tea or coffee. We will be deciding whether we should continue this scheme based on the number of folk who attend.



## Strollers & Striders

There has been a good response to the call for a Scruton Walking Group. A first walk to include a river circuit will be on **Mon 9 January**, assemble on the village green at 10 am. Dogs are welcome and normal country codes must be observed.

Contact Janet Crampton for details or with suggestions/preferences regarding am/pm, day-of-the-week or ideas for future walks. Tel 01609 748321, 07540 503030 or [janetcrampton@icloud.com](mailto:janetcrampton@icloud.com)



*Snowdrops: Theirs is a fragile but hardy celebration...in the very teeth of winter. Louise Beebe Wilder (1878-1938)*

All services at St Radegund's are on Sunday at 9:30 am except where stated.

**8 Jan** Holy Communion Jenni  
**15 Jan** No service in Scruton  
**22 Jan** Morning Worship Paul  
**29 Jan** Holy Communion Jenni  
**5 Feb** No service in Scruton

**From the Rectory** – Love and Blessings to all for a Happy and Peaceful New Year. The Rev. Jenni Lane may be contacted on 01609 631122.



## Charity Coffee Mornings

The next Coffee Morning is a Seasonal Gathering on **Saturday 21 January**, 10 am - noon in the village hall. There will be no Raffle or Cake Stall but donations for charity and any surplus Christmas food (as an alternative to biscuits) would be appreciated. Contact Jacqueline on 01609 748617 for details.



## Sunday Lunch Club

The next Lunch Club will be **Sunday 22 January** at the Coore Arms. If you wish to participate, contact Alyson Tonge at [alysontonge@gmail.com](mailto:alysontonge@gmail.com) or tel. 748 227.



## Petrol Heads

Alan Harpley reports that 10 people have expressed interest in a 'Petrol Heads' gathering. The first meeting will take place on **Thursday 12 January**, 7:30 pm at the Coore Arms. Call Alan on 01609 748712 for further details.



## Scruton Book Club

The next Book Club meeting will be at 2:30 pm on **Tuesday 31 January**. For information call or text Janet Crampton on 07540 503030 or 01609 748321.

Please join us for a Members Evening on **Thursday 12 January**, 7:15 pm at Kirkby Fleetham Village Hall. For details call Carol Barron on 01609 748 315 or email [carolinesboxes@gmail.com](mailto:carolinesboxes@gmail.com)



## Screen Scruton 7:30 pm on 11 January at Scruton Village Hall



Steven Spielberg's new adaption of the classic 1957 musical, West Side Story explores forbidden love and the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, teenage gangs of different ethnic backgrounds.

*Doors Open 7 pm, café style seating and bring your own drinks & nibbles. No Admission Charge, but donations are invited towards Village Hall funds. Email Stephen Elmer if you wish to attend: [stephen.elmer@scruton.net](mailto:stephen.elmer@scruton.net)*

## Scruton News Thanks...

Scruton's village newsletter would not be possible without the sponsorship of Scruton Parish Council, articles by the regular contributors, printing by Richard Zealley, and the distribution team (Alan Harpley, Gordon McQuillen, Jane Meeres, Margaret Sharp and Joan & Keith Walker) who deliver copies to every house in the parish in all weather throughout the year. Thank You all, Ed

**Scruton Parish Council** hope you all had a great Christmas. We would like to wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. We also thank all those who have helped us over the past year. There are too many to name here but you know who you are and your help has made life easier for us all, thank you.

**Dog Fouling (again!) -** Unfortunately there is an increase in dog fouling. The local farmers kindly allow us to walk on their land so it is only good manners to clean up after your dogs. At this time of year families have visitors staying. If they are walking their dogs, please remind them of the protocol of cleaning up and wherever possible to not let them run across the crops.

**Trees -** Trevor would like to highlight the good job our 98 trees are doing with our carbon footprint. The fallen leaves may be a bit of a nuisance but they have maximised the amount of carbon dioxide captured during the year and add to the scenic vista of our village.

**Finally -** Please keep sending us your suggestions for how to commemorate Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



## Thankful Ale

**Thankful – Scruton IPA** is available for local delivery or collection from the village hall. Case of 12 bottles £27, 5 litre mini keg £23. Every bottle raised funds for the village. Contact Richard (Chalky) Burton-White on 07545 123856 or via Scruton Community Facebook Page.

## January...



Named after Janus, the two-headed Roman God, January is famously a month of new beginnings and new plans. What are yours?

## Scruton Parish Council

Chris Barron (Clerk) 01609 748 315 [ronald.barron@btinternet.com](mailto:ronald.barron@btinternet.com)  
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Mike Widmer 01609 748 392 [mswstonemole@gmail.com](mailto:mswstonemole@gmail.com)

## Hambleton District Councillor (Morton-on-Swale Ward)

Cllr. Brian Phillips 01609 765 991 [cldr.brian.phillips@hambleton.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.brian.phillips@hambleton.gov.uk)

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

Annabel Wilkinson 01677 426 744 [cldr.annabel.wilkinson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.annabel.wilkinson@northyorks.gov.uk)

## Parish Council Meetings 2023

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

**12 January**  
**9 March**  
**13 April (Annual Parish Meeting)**  
**11 May (Parish Council 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 and some views may not be those of the Parish Council.

**Copy Deadline for the next edition is 25 January 2023**