

Scruton News

www.scruton.net

December 2024



Village Christmas Card (last chance)

The deadline for returning your village signature sheets to Joan Walker (24 The Parklands) is: **Friday 6 December**.

Thank you to everyone who has already ordered cards and/or returned signature sheets. A few more packs of cards are still available for sale, or if you need a replacement signature sheet, please call Joan Walker on 01609 748 458 or email: keithandjoanwalker@gmail.com



Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

The first 2 weeks of November were warm and dry with plenty of sunshine and no heavy frosts. Many flowers were still in bloom and on a couple of days my mahonia was covered in honeybees, wasps and peacock butterflies. A week later, after a series of heavy frosts, all the flowers were reduced to mush.

The blackbirds have returned and are now squabbling over territory and showing initial signs of displaying. Some of you have had fewer birds visiting their feeders. My initial reaction is that the autumn weather has been so benign that they have not been forced to migrate to find food. However, there also appear to be fewer winter thrushes here, even after the recent cold snap. What we do have is a significant increase of pink-footed geese feeding locally.



Tracy Snowdon recently had great views of an otter swimming in the recently formed cut-off on the Swale. This appears to be a favourite otter haunt. The Great White Egret has returned for its second winter and is the size of a grey heron. I heard a thud on the lounge window this morning and there was the outline of what appeared to be a sparrow hawk, no sign of the culprit, but I have my suspicions... female!!!



St Nicholas Returns to Scruton



St Nicholas will visit St Radegund's Church at 5 pm on **Thursday 5th Dec**. Following their triumph of 2 years ago, Ainderby Steeple School Choir will be singing for us. There will also be mulled wine and mince pies. All families and children are welcome. St Nicholas will bring small gifts for the children which he likes to leave in their shoe, and so will each child please bring a shoe clearly marked with his or her name.

Christmas Services in Scruton

The following services will be held at St Radegund's Church this Christmas:

Wed 18 Dec - Nine Lessons and Carols in church at 7 pm, followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

Sun 22 Dec - Carols on the Green at 3:30 pm, with Mulled Wine & Mince Pies.






Wed 25 Dec - Christmas Day Family Service & Holy Communion at 10:30 am.



Scruton Sky at Night

by Graham Dodds

On 4 December we'll see Venus and a thin crescent Moon low in the twilight sky: look SW. On the 13th the Moon skims under the Pleiades (mentioned last month). The 14th & 15th bring the Geminid meteor shower, when dust from an asteroid named Phaethon hits our atmosphere; unfortunately, (supposing clear skies of course), the new Moon will limit our views. Phaethon, in Greek mythology, was the son of Helios, (the personification of the Sun). Helium (He), the second most abundant element found in our universe, derives its name from Helios. 21 December is the Winter Solstice, when the Sun is at its most southernmost, the Earth being tilted 'away' on its 23.45° axis; it marks the shortest day, longest night and the beginning of a change in daylight hours. Finally, look out for the elusive planet Mercury, low in the twilight on the 28th.

The Moon - The first new  appears on the 1st Dec. First quarter  is on the 8th, and a full moon  on the 15th. The last quarter Moon  occurs on the 22nd. We have a second new  on the 30th.



Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

In his book *The Wood*, author John Lewis-Stempel explains the historical importance of holly and ivy as animal fodder during the winter. He explains how he used to harvest the holly from above head height because it only produces prickles on the lower branches where cattle would otherwise graze. I haven't climbed a ladder to check this. He also says that tree branches and their leaves were stored during the summer to provide 'tree hay' for the winter.

You will no doubt have heard about the protests over inheritance tax. The government require money to pay for social care and landowners are first in line to pay for it. When my father died in 1980, I had to work, more-or-less without wages, for the following 22 years, until I had paid back the debts. I have survived in farming by working 100 hours per week and spending as little as possible. The first time in my life that I have had regular money came as I started to receive my old age pension and at last, I can go out and have a coffee without wondering if I can afford it.

Wensleydale Railway presents...

EDWARDIAN CHRISTMAS AT SCRUTON

Sunday 15th December 2024
Entry 2-4 pm

Join us for an afternoon of festive fun at our beautifully restored Edwardian railway station.

Adults £5 entry - includes mince pie & mulled wine*

Children £2 entry - includes Christmas activities, juice & biscuits

*non-alcoholic alternative available

Scruton Railway Station,
Station Rd, Scruton, DL7 0QN



Services at St Radegund's

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

- 5 Dec** St Nicholas (Thurs, 5 pm), Jenni
- 8 Dec** Holy Communion, Jenni
- 15 Dec** No service in Scruton
- 18 Dec** 9 Lessons & Carols (Wed 7pm)
- 22 Dec** Carols on the Green (3:30 pm)
- 24 Dec** Benefice Midnight Holy Communion (Ainderby, 11:30 pm)
- 25 Dec** Benefice Family Service & Holy Communion (Scruton 10:30 am)
- 29 Dec** Morning Worship, Paul
- 5 Jan** Holy Communion, Jenni



Coffee Morning

Coffee, Carols and a Concert - in the Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon, on **Saturday 7 Dec**. Everyone welcome (Christmas Jumpers optional). Please note, the concert will start at 11 am.



Petrolheads

Our next meeting on **Wed 11 Dec** will be a sit-down Xmas meal in the Coore Arms at 7pm. I need to know in good time if you wish to join us because the pub is very busy at this time of the year. Please message James on 07774 228 895.



Kirkby Fleetham WI

The next meeting on **Thursday 12 December** will be a Christmas Dinner for members. For more details call Carol Barron on 01609 748 315, or email carolinesboxes@gmail.com

Stamps for the RNIB

Collecting stamps for RNIB can make a difference to blind & partially sighted people. There is a collection box in St Radegund's Church.

Christmas Foodshare

Can you help? - St Radegund's Church is organising a collection to support Hambleton FoodShare's *Twelve Days of Christmas Appeal*, which aims to add a few extra Christmas treats to the usual parcels of basic groceries they provide for people in need. If you can help, please leave your donations in the front porch of the Mainwaring-Taylor's house on the Village Green at any time from **now until Sunday 8th December** or contact John 07969 385 251 who will arrange to collect them from you. All contributions will be gratefully received.

Thankful Village Fireworks

This year's display was a great success, with a record crowd of about 400. Thank you to the sponsors (XLB Fuels, Lifetime Home Improvements, M. Preston Plumbing & Heating, Bedale Motor Factors, Horner Building & Joinery, Charnley Fertilizers, Coore Arms, Greg Clapham Building & Landscaping and Spring House Farm Shop).

Bucket collections together with the sale of drinks and novelties raised over £1,500 which will go towards next year's display. Thanks also go to Eve Emison for a great music list and to Janet, Karen and Chloe for selling drinks and novelties. The BBQ, which was run by Scruton Allotments, served 179 meals and raised a further £600 (shared between SPFA and the Allotments). Finally, a special thank you to the all-important Pyro Squad: *Greg Clapham, Mark Gatenby, Phil Emison, Phil Astwood, Richard Wood, Phil Johnson, Doug Titterington and Paul Harrison.*



Coore Memorial Hall

You can now view the Village Hall diary and make booking requests on the village website. You can also see a list of hire charges, facilities, floorplan and other useful information for hirers. Check it out at: www.scruton.net

All enquiries via the website please or by email to: villagehall@scruton.net

The Copy Deadline for the next Scruton News is 27 DECEMBER

From the Parish Council

By Cllr. Syd Nye

New Councillor- SPC are pleased to welcome Jacqueline Mainwaring-Taylor onto the Parish Council.

54 Bus - We have written to NYC to request that the 54 bus can pick up Scruton residents at stops to/from the route between Northallerton & Scruton, particularly by the Doctor's surgery. We will keep you informed of the progress.

Drains - We have been made aware that some drains and gulleys are blocked, causing flooding when it rains. NYC are changing the reporting portal on their website; if you wish to report a specific blocked drain, please inform the Parish Clerk, we will then raise it with NYC. You can also email NYC directly at: customer.services@northyorks.gov.uk The more reports, the better the chance of the problem being rectified.

Potholes - Complaints about potholes (and other road issues) can be reported to streetworks@northyorks.co.uk; please also notify SPC. To accurately report which drain is blocked or the location of the pothole we would ask that you use the 'What3words' app, which locates positions to within 3 metres.

Village Green - Thanks to Kevin Procter for clearing leaves from the village green prior to the Remembrance Day Service.

Scruton Village WhatsApp Group - proved very useful during the recent power cut, for delivering straightforward essential information about situations affecting all villagers. If you haven't already joined, please consider doing so. Contact Janet Crampton for details. The power cut also highlighted a practical need for more personal communication with those not on WhatsApp; any other suggestions would be welcomed.

RAF - Many of you will have noticed that there has been an increase of aircraft flying over the Village, we are told this is due to the orientation of the new runway.

Happy Christmas to all our Readers

Scruton Parish Councillors

Chris Barron (Clerk)	01609 748 315
John Cherry	01609 748 573
Maurice Daley (Chair)	07881 443 248
Trevor Howe (Vice Chair)	01609 748 355
Jacqueline Mainwaring-Taylor	01609 748 617
Syd Nye	01609 748 464

ronald.barron315@gmail.com
johnhcherry@btinternet.com
maurice@mdpuk.co.uk
tdhscruton@gmail.com
jmtgreen295@gmail.com
syd@nyeref.co.uk

Parish Council Meetings 2025

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

9 January, 13 March

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.

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

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

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