

Scruton News

www.scruton.net

January 2024



Scruton Sky at Night

by Graham Dodds

Light pollution of our sky is measured on the 'Bortle Scale', a score of 1 being the darkest sky through to 9 for an inner city. Scruton scores 4. You can learn more at www.darksky.org and join the campaign to become a dark sky advocate.



Constellations - Orion continues to dominate, rising in the east as darkness falls. Look out for Taurus (the Bull) and the Pleiades (Seven Sisters). Taurus contains Aldebaran, a red giant star with an orange hue. It's a more 'elderly' version of our Sun.

Planets - Uranus is just visible to the naked eye during January, near to Jupiter (which continues to be visible southwards) and the Pleiades. Venus, rising around 5 am in the SE, will lie close to a crescent moon on 8 Jan.

The Moon - The first quarter Moon occurs on 18 Jan, close to Jupiter, with the full Moon on 25 Jan. Enjoy!



Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

We are now entering the coldest quarter of the year, with the sun low in the sky and few hours of daylight. By the end of the month the nights will be drawing out. An old saying states: 'as the days get longer, the cold gets stronger'. This is a month for getting odd jobs done whilst trying to stay warm, in the workshop or the lambing shed. Yes, the sheep should start lambing around the middle of this month and the cycle of life should start another rotation. The annual sheep census has been completed, yet another legal requisite for those who keep sheep.

We managed to pick a few potatoes on 21 December, but they have suffered badly by being left in the ground because of the autumnal flooding, and the heavy frosts at the end of November have taken a great toll upon the remaining crop. It may be that the third of the crop which didn't get picked before the rains came are not worth picking when the fields do finally dry up.

Thank You Slots

Scruton Xmas Card – Thank you to everyone who made signature donations and purchased packs of Xmas cards. Special thanks to the team who delivered cards to every house in the parish, and to Joan Walker who organised the whole project with 'technical support' from Stephen Elmer. St Radegund's Local Church Council are pleased to report that £1,188 (excluding Gift-Aid) was raised for the Church Fabric Fund.

Edwardian Christmas – Thank you to everyone who supported the Edwardian Christmas at Scruton Station. The event was a great success with over 70 visitors who enjoyed mince pies, mulled wine, and sang carols in the 'ladies waiting room', accompanied by Corinne Morris on the station harmonium!



Looking Back

by the Time Traveller

Sixty years ago, the contents of Scruton Hall were sold at a 3-day auction and the old house sadly demolished. A recently obtained sale catalogue of the contents has revealed that the Hall was rich in antique furniture, silverware, an extensive library and many paintings, some by Poussin, Lely, Ramsay and Kneller. Paintings of Samuel and Roger Gale are known to have been bought at the auction by the Society of Antiquaries. Roger Gale (1672-1744) was the first vice-president of the Society and Samuel Gale (1682-1754) was the Society's first Treasurer and a godson of Pepys.



Portrait of Samuel Gale by Isaac Whood c. 1730
Society of Antiquaries (Burlington House)

Perhaps the Gale's interest in antiques goes some way to explain the eclectic mix of contents at Scruton Hall. The Hall & estate ultimately passed to the Coore family in 1876 when heiress Harriet Gale married Lt. Col Lechmere Coore.



Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

The early winter weather has been dominated by gales bringing warm weather from the west due to a strong El Nino. Ultimately this system invariably brings a drastic change to drier and colder weather in the latter half of winter and early spring. Currently high up in the atmosphere a vortex of very strong winds keeps intensely cold polar air bottled up above the Arctic. Recently these stratospheric winds have been weakening, and if they grow too weak and go into reverse, cold polar air will descend and penetrate our weather system, and at worst could see the return of the 'Beast from the East'.



Polar stratospheric clouds over Scruton (Julie Webb)

Another portent of cold weather to come was the glorious display of nacreous clouds or mother of pearl clouds, just after sunset on 21 December. These are some of the highest clouds to be seen, 15 to 20km up in the stratosphere where the air is dry, and are exceptionally rare. Sunlight makes the ice crystals in the clouds glow pearl coloured, and they are most unusual at our latitude. This autumn has seen a bumper crop of haws, very much appreciated by wildlife. Folklore warns of cold winters and snows if there are plenty of hawthorn berries; 'When the hawthorn has too many haws, we shall still have many snaws'. There you have it, winter draws on!!

Ed - Take part in the World's Largest Wildlife Survey - RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch for 2024 on 26-28 January.

Fiendish Mind Games

Do you know which number appears next in this sequence: **2 3 4 5 6 7 4 2 4 ?**

Who is the odd one out in this list:
Ingrid, Victoria, Roland, Xavier, Leopold, Charles, Dominic, Miriam.

Change one letter in each word to make a familiar phrase: **in are is she home**



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.

- 7 Jan** Holy Communion, Jenni & Stasi
- 14 Jan** Holy Communion, Jenni & Stasi
- 21 Jan** No service in Scruton
- 28 Jan** Morning Worship, Paul & Stasi
- 4 Feb** No service in Scruton



Coffee Morning

Please join us for our post-Christmas get together in the village hall, **10 - 12 am on Sat 20 January**. Further details will follow on Network Scruton.

Thank you to everyone who supported our December Coffee Morning; we donated £200 to Street Child, a charity that educates children in war zones.

For further information or to help out please call Jacqueline on 01609 748617



Petrolheads

Best wishes to all our supporters for happy motoring in 2024. Our next meeting will be on **Thurs 11 January**, 7:30 pm at the Coore Arms. Contact Alan on 01609 748 712 for details.



Strollers & Striders

Resuming on **8 January** 2024, walks take place every Monday morning. Look out for messages on Network Scruton or contact Janet Crampton, 07540 503 030 or email janetcrampton@icloud.com



Lunch Club

The next Lunch Club is on **Sunday 21 January**, 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

Please join us for a talk by Svalbard on 'The Arctic Circle' on **Thursday 11 Jan**, 7:15 pm at Kirkby Fleetham village hall. For details call Carol Barron, 01609 748 315, or carolinesboxes@gmail.com



Scruton Jazz Band

Our next gig is **Thursday 25 January**, 7.30 pm at The Green Dragon, Exelby. No tickets required, but you may want to book a table to guarantee a seat (call 01677 422233). For more about SJB contact Susan Rogers, 07776 145529 or scrutonjazzandblues@gmail.com

Inspiring Memories

Our **Community Heritage Open Day** at Kirkby Fleetham village hall is on **Saturday 20 January**, 10 am – 2 pm.

Come and hear local memories recorded by the 'Village Voices' Team. Enjoy homemade cakes & scones (from the Saturday Morning Hub) and see displays by Kirkby Fleetham's Parish Council, the History Group and the Primary School.

If you have any old photos, artifacts, or memories of times gone by, bring them along to share.



Screen Scruton

Wednesday 10 January
7:30 pm in the Village Hall



Stars Helen Mirren & Ian McKellen

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)

Resilience Plan – North Yorkshire Council are auditing, revising and creating new emergency & contingency plans and as such, Scruton Parish Council are required to prepare Community Resilience plans to be the initial actions until such times that the NYC plans can take over. At the next parish council meeting, NYC Emergency Planning Officer is giving a presentation on this matter and will review the progress on our draft plans. We hope you can attend the presentation.

At present we are preparing plans to cater for such events that may isolate the village such as: massive snow dump closing all routes in and out of the village; storm force winds bringing down numerous trees and cutting off the village; severe flooding; and prolonged power cuts. If you would like to help in the initial actions of returning things back to normal or with the planning, please let the Parish Clerk know.

Hopefully, we will never need to activate these plans, but we must be prepared. Any contact details will be stored securely and will be owned by NYC. At present all plans are in draft form and will not be enacted until all participants have agreed them. Any agreement to help is voluntary and not binding. These plans are envisaged as the initial self-help actions in the village until help from NYC can be provided.

Happy New Year - SPC would like to thank all those who have helped us in the past year and to wish you all a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Coore Memorial Hall

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

All future enquiries please email villagehall@scruton.net

The Copy Deadline for the next Scruton News is 25 JANUARY.

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 cllr.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