

Scruton News

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October 2024



Nature Notes

by Andy Johnston

The Met' Office forecast for this summer, was that it would be amongst the hottest ever! During the 2nd week of July, many of you were finding your central heating kicking in due to a cool northerly airstream and cloudy weather. A week later we had the hottest day of the year (31°C). These fluctuating extremes have become a feature of our changing climate, so it is hardly surprising that nature has been affected.

Butterflies and insects have been amongst the losers, and it was not until the middle of September that they started to appear, but in small numbers. Butterfly Conservation have released the details of their count which indicates what a poor year it has been for the butterflies. However, we will not have a clear picture until the outcome of the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, which will give a more detailed and accurate, scientifically based set of results.



Curlew and lapwing are back on fields near Morton Bridge, traditional feeding grounds for these birds. Those of you with bird feeders may be familiar with the large female sparrowhawk which roams the village. Elizabeth Davies wondered whether this sparrow hawk was responsible for the demise of a small kitten that regularly visited her garden.



All Hallows Eve



The 31 October is now commonly known as Halloween. It is largely observed as a fun night of trick & treating for children, but it was originally celebrated as *All Hallows Eve* or *All Saints Eve*, a time for remembering and honouring the dead.

The ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, a forerunner of Halloween, marked the end of summer and harvest and the onset of dark, cold winter days.

Village Christmas Card

Every household in the parish will receive a traditional Village Christmas card with greetings inside from their friends and neighbours in Scruton.



The envelope delivered with this newsletter contains a 'signature sheet' to write your personal greeting, and an order form should you wish to purchase packs of cards for your own use. Please see the enclosed flyer for all the details.



Farming News

by Malcolm Barker

This has been a strange year, 6 dark, wet months followed by 3 dry, droughty months. This has enabled most crops to be harvested, but the weather pendulum appears to be swinging back towards rain. The harvest seems to have been one of very little yield in any of the spring sown crops. Even the over-wintered potatoes gave very little return but even so, this was an improvement on the losses created by the surrounding spring barley. I was however expecting this after the deluge in spring.

After talking to other potato growers and picking my first rows, I am expecting a season of small potatoes and below average yields, but they are planted on gently sloping ground, so I am hopeful of being able to pick them during October.

Autumn is the season for letting the tups in with the ewes and the way of telling which ewes are (hopefully) in lamb, is to put a coloured marker onto the sternum of each tup. This transfers to the rump of each mated ewe. I try to change the rudd colour each week; rudd is an old word for red, although it comes in assorted colours. I apply these from yellow, progressing through the spectrum to red, which indicates the later lambing ewes. Those who are acquainted with Thomas Hardy's *Far from the Madding Crowd* will remember the 'reddy man' whose job was to move from farm to farm to 'rudd' the tups.



Gardeners' World

by Elizabeth Davies

We had a little rain in the last month but then sun and wind, so the ground became dry again, and on 2 occasions, there was frost at night. Some sheltered gardens were not affected but at the allotments the leaves of the marrows, courgettes and squashes were taken and some of my more exposed dahlias. I have never lost plants to frost before in September, is this our changing climate?

Now is a good time to move old and overcrowded peonies. Carefully dig them up, split them and discard any old tubers, re-plant them just below the surface of the soil. If planted too deep, they will not flower. If your dahlias survived the frost, keep dead heading them. The round buds are flowers to come but the cone shaped ones are the seedheads so cut back to a leaf bud. Nerines are about to come into flower; lovely shades of pink to red and white.



Also flowering now are autumn crocus, aka 'naked boys/ladies' because the flowers emerge from the soil before the foliage appears. This is large and untidy but needs to be left to die down so the nutrients can go back into the corm before cutting back. Now is the time to plant daffodils, hyacinths and crocus for next spring, but don't plant tulips, leave until November because they are prone to tulip fire or botrytis if planted too early.



Puzzle Corner



(Think twice before you answer)

- 1) There are two ducks in front of two ducks, two ducks behind two ducks and two ducks in between. What is the minimum number of ducks?
- 2) If it takes a hen-and-a-half, a day-and-a-half, to lay an egg-and-a-half, how many eggs will half-a-dozen hens lay in half-a-dozen days?

Email the Editor for the answers



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.

- 6 Oct** Morning Worship, Paul
- 13 Oct** Holy Communion, Jenni
- 20 Oct** No service in Scruton
- 27 Oct** Holy Communion, Jenni/Paul
- 30 Oct** Evensong (Wed at 7pm), Jenni
- 3 Nov** No Service in Scruton
- 10 Nov** Remembrance Service, John S. (10:45 am on the village green)

Harvest Foodshare – Thank you to all those who kindly donated items to the Hambleton Foodshare; it will make a real difference to many people.



Coffee Morning

Our next Coffee Morning, on **Saturday, 19 October**, will be in aid of Scruton's Thankful Village Fireworks. Donations of Raffle prizes and items for the Cake Stall would be welcomed. Please help to raise money for this spectacular village event!



Scruton Book Club

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 29 October**, in the afternoon. New members are always welcome to our informal afternoon chats about books (and films, theatre, TV, exhibitions or any other topic of interest!). For more details contact Janet Crampton on 07540 503 030 or via janetcrampton@icloud.com



RAFA* Fundraising Gig

SJB are playing at The Riverside Community Club, Bedale on **Fri 11 Oct**. Tickets are £10 and there will be a great bottle raffle with lots of prizes. No food but there will be a fish & chips van outside. Contact Susan for tickets 07776 145 529 or susan@susanrogers.me.uk

* Royal Air Force Association



Kirkby Fleetham WI

Join us on **Thursday 10 October**, for a *Jewellery Demonstration* by Lesley Bottomley, 7:15 pm at Kirkby Fleetham Village Hall. For more details call Carol Barron on 01609 748 315, or email carolinesboxes@gmail.com



Lunch Club

The next Lunch Club is on **Sunday 13 October**, 12:30 pm at the Coore Arms. To join us, please call Alyson on 748 227 or email alysontonge@gmail.com



Petrolheads

Making the most of some glorious weather in September, we had an impromptu run up the dale to Leyburn. Great turn out with an eclectic mix of cars on a stunning evening.



Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 10 October**. Weather permitting, we may have a drive out. If not, we'll meet up over a pint at the Coore Arms. We now have a WhatsApp group for Petrolheads, to keep everyone updated on activities and timings; we can also share events, photos and ask questions. If you'd like to be added, please message James on 07774 228 895.



Screen Scruton News

Sadly, it has been decided to suspend film shows for the 2024/25 season. The reasons for this are due to declining attendance and technical problems with the existing HD projection equipment. For the future, the village hall Committee will consider whether to invest in a new 4k Ultra HD display system (subject to there being sufficient demand).



Thankful Village Fireworks

The Firework Display & Bonfire will take place on the evening of **Saturday 9 November**. Scruton News has been informed that the Pyrotechnic Crew (SPFA) have a few surprises lined up for this year, so don't miss out - save the date in your calendar now!

From the Parish Council

By Cllr. Syd Nye

Parish Precept – The Council has decided not to increase the precept this year, although we are responsible for 98 trees which cost at least £200 for each pruning. Our prudence over recent years allows us to keep the precept at its present level for another year.

Village Green - You may have noticed some bald patches on the village green; we are liaising with the grass cutting contractor to ensure this doesn't occur again. We would also like to thank Kevin Proctor for arranging the repointing of his wall on the edge of the green; it is an excellent job and really smartens up the approach to St Radegund's Church.

We would also like to thank the kind person who cut the grass and pruned the bushes along the snicket adjacent to Tony's allotment.

Salt/Grit Bins - New plastic shovels have been placed in the salt/grit bins and where necessary the bins will be topped up by the onset of winter.

Vacancy - We are still seeking a Parish Clerk and another Parish Councillor, so if you think you might be interested in either position, please contact one of us to find out more about the role.

The Copy Deadline for the next Scruton News is 25 OCTOBER



Coore Memorial Hall

For all enquiries, please email villagehall@scruton.net

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

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

Parish Council Meetings 2024/25

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

2024: 14 November 2025: 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.

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