

## Douglas to the rescue!

The cycle of cutting, drying and shipping wood was seriously disrupted during the pandemic. The price of timber rocketed, with imported sawn wood costs soaring 64% in 2020. (Source: *Department for Business*) Fortunately when it came to cladding the Events Room and Café at the North Yorkshire WaterPark, the Estate was able to look closer to home. The forestry team felled 60-year-old Douglas Firs as part of the sustainable forestry management plan. Then a mobile sawmill run from the back of a Land Rover transformed them into planks.



"Douglas Fir is perfect for cladding," says Head of Property & Sporting, James Stephenson.

"As a softwood it is more resistant to bacteria and moisture than hardwoods. The high resin content means it can last more than 30 years and doesn't need to be treated. Being home grown, the haulage carbon footprint is also minimal, plus it looks great!"



## Wykeham and the Wellington Bomber

It was a nice peaceful July day in 1946 when Mr Bryant, the Second Gardner "was cutting the lawn at the south front of Wykeham Abbey". He recalled, "I happened to glance up and saw an aircraft which appeared to me to be in a power dive at an angle of 45° travelling from the north, the height was about 500 feet, it was heading for the centre of the Abbey. It then turned sharply to the left and disappeared from my view behind the Abbey and trees. I then heard a very heavy thud and realised that

the aircraft had crashed." The plane was a Wellington bomber and had an interesting history in that it had been used to test Sir Barnes Wallis's "bouncing bomb" and as such was featured in the classic film "The Dam Busters". But if its history had been illustrious its end was grisly. When it hit the ground at 380 mph, it produced a hole which measured some 11 by 18 yards with fragments being thrown for a distance of 130 yards. One boy at Wykeham School remembers feeling the impact of the crash a mile away and it being like "an earthquake".



To pay tribute to the crew, all of whom died in the crash, the Estate has recently erected a small monument. It will also be publishing a short booklet giving more details of the plane and the most likely reason for the crash.

## Turning back the clock: RAF West Ayton

The North Yorkshire WaterPark is situated on land that between August 1918 and June 1919, was RAF West Ayton. The aerodrome was somewhat basic having a grass runway, one Bessonneau canvas-covered hangar, a small hut with a telephone and the aircrew and staff being sheltered in some traditional (now demolished) farm buildings. Perhaps unsurprisingly as the land that is only 75 feet above sea level, the RAF noted that it was "very wet" in winter. The airfield was the home of 251 Squadron, which had about ninety-four men on its roster,

all of whom were billeted locally, where they earned a reputation of being "high spirited"! During their time at the aerodrome they flew the cumbersome Airco DH.6 (known affectionately as the "clockwork mouse" and the "flying coffin") on regular patrols out into the North Sea in a vain attempt to combat the U-boat menace which threatened to bring Britain to its knees. This proved to be next to impossible as the pilots were expected to simultaneously fly, keep a look out for and then single-handedly bomb the submarines. But even if they did not manage to sink any U-boats, they were still a

potent deterrent. Soon after the end of hostilities the RAF abandoned the airfield, leaving a number of unexploded incendiary bombs buried in the surrounding fields to remind local farmers of its existence!





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# DAWNAY NEWS

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During the last 18 months, people have grown to appreciate their gardens like never before. Many homeowners calling upon the expertise of Wykeham Mature Plants to improve their outdoor spaces with instant hedging, substantial shrubs and towering trees. As the plants are grown here in North Yorkshire, the business has avoided international distribution and customs challenges, passing on the resulting savings to the customer. To cope with demand, they have now recruited more nursery workers and invested in a brand-new JCB. Customers continue to give glowing reviews:

"Working with the team at Wykeham has been absolutely fantastic. From advice on trees through to the aftercare, their service has been second to none. We would also like to thank the planting team. After days of hard digging, they continued even as a lightning storm loomed, ensuring the trees look perfect," said Mr Whitley of East Yorkshire

"We are delighted that 2021 has blossomed into our best year ever. Customers have loved our beautiful laurel blocks, stunning hollies and outstanding

evergreen screening. Pleached trees proved to be the perfect privacy solution when space was at a premium," says Adam Smith, General Manager.

"We are now preparing for a very busy winter, as the best time to lift and move plants is when they are dormant - from November to spring. Our planting team's diary is also filling up with private garden project bookings."

To see the range of plants on offer and order online, check out [www.wykehammatureplants.co.uk](http://www.wykehammatureplants.co.uk)

## Open for All

North Yorkshire WaterPark being opened on 24<sup>th</sup> June by Julian Norton (The Yorkshire Vet) and Lord Downe, with fireworks and wake boarding displays.



## Congratulations

To Josh Beckett who after 5 years with the Wykeham Shoot has been promoted to Head Keeper and continues to be ably assisted by Luke Knowles as Under Keeper.



## SAVE THE DATE

Teams of four £1250, guests £50.  
For details or to book contact:  
[james.stephenson@dawnay.co.uk](mailto:james.stephenson@dawnay.co.uk)  
**Wykeham Charity Clay Shoot**  
**26<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

## Well Done

In September North Yorkshire WaterPark welcomed Mike, Kerry & Emma as they completed their 110 mile sponsored walk of the Cleveland Way in aid of Support Dogs. Joined by Molly aged 13 and Support Dog Chess, they were played over the finish line by Ripon City Brass Band - we are delighted that "Brass & Cake by the Lake" raised nearly £2,000 to add to their funds.





## Calling all daredevils

“Fantastic”, “superfriendly”, “so much fun”: just some of the TripAdvisor reviews of the North Yorkshire WaterPark, which introduced a new wake boarding line and greatly improved facilities this summer.

## SAINT CATHERINE'S HOSPICE SANTA DASH

12th December 2021 at North Yorkshire WaterPark



“The team worked really hard to open on time and it's been an incredible season,”

says David Steel, Chief Executive of Dawnay Estates.

“The café overlooking the AquaPark inflatable obstacle course has been extremely popular. We've hosted everything from corporate away days to birthday parties for up to 30 people in the air-conditioned events room. We've also had a flying visit from an osprey, spotted on our nearby estate-made nesting platform.”

As the water cools, other activities are hotting up. “Parkrun” starts this winter on the 2.5km all-terrain gravelled track around the main watersports lake, as does construction of the new 250 metre zipwire over the second largest lake.

The truly adventurous can ascend via one of its two 10 metre high climbing walls before hurtling down over the lake. Showers and changing rooms will also be upgraded, a fishing lodge converted into a one bedroom self-catering cottage and special events will be held on Bonfire Night and at Christmas.

“Fantastic”  
“Superfriendly”  
“so much fun”

For the latest news, head to [www.northyorkshirewaterpark.co.uk](http://www.northyorkshirewaterpark.co.uk)

## Glamping and a greener welcome for all



ST HELENS  
CARAVANS, PODS & CAMPING

Do you love the idea of camping but hate putting up tents?

St Helen's now offers ten wooden camping pods. They each have a heater, electric socket, mirror and lights with space for two double air mattresses or camp beds. Two are about to be replaced with fully equipped ensuite pods. One of them will include the ultimate in 'glamping': a private hot tub where guests can relax and admire the stars.

“As well as making over some of our pods, we are also refreshing and updating our logo and branding.”

says manager Andrew Backhouse. “Keep a look out for our new road sign, created by a local signage company, and new stone pillars and lighting. Hedging from Wykeham Mature Plants will create a more welcoming entrance and support our commitment to conservation. This has reached new heights through the efforts of our Head Groundsman Simon Roe, including planting pollinator-friendly flowers, leaving wild flower strips and installing bug hotels.”

For more details, take a look at [www.sthelenscaravanpark.co.uk](http://www.sthelenscaravanpark.co.uk)

## From converted cartsheds to historic castles

In August, we bid a fond farewell to the Estate's first ever Building Services Manager, Dave Todd. Appointed in 2014, he was a familiar face having represented North Yorkshire Building Control during the conversion of the disused buildings of Lora Farm into Wykeham Business Centre in 2003/2004.

“Dave project managed the renovation of properties in Hutton Buscel, Wykeham, Ruston and Danby, converted The Cartshed in Wykeham and oversaw the North Yorkshire WaterPark's expansion,” says Chief Executive David Steel.

“But perhaps his key triumph was to sensitively transform the Grade I medieval barn of Danby Castle into a stunning wedding venue. We will miss Dave very much but wish him a long, happy and very well-deserved retirement.”



## Reeling in the world from North Yorkshire

A new business, which only opened its doors in Wykeham's Hillyard for the first time a year ago, is already expanding. Barbless Flies supplies hand-tied nymphs and dry flies to fisherfolk around the world. They personally test out all their fly designs, use plastic-free packaging and donate a percentage of every order to conservation charities.

“We started with the shop but now also have an office in the Wykeham Business Centre. With so many people taking up fishing during the pandemic, we needed more room for stock and for my sons Jack and Sam who are combining work and postgraduate studies,” says founder Richard Fieldhouse.

“We love being in Wykeham and are looking forward to collaborating with Wykeham Lakes on some exciting projects in 2022.”

Find them online at [www.barbless-flies.co.uk](http://www.barbless-flies.co.uk)



## Until the cows come home



The search for the next generation of farmers for Crag Farm, a dairy farm of 156 acres in historic Danby, is now over. The tenancy has been awarded to Trevor and Samantha Eddon who are planning to move their milking herd up from near Pickering in spring 2022.

“The Eddons have worked incredibly hard to improve Crag Farm,” explains Head of Property & Sporting, James Stephenson. “They've repaired drainage, re-seeded pastures, fixed fences and walls and are in the process of building a new milking parlour. A North York Moors National Park's Esk and Coastal Streams Catchment grant has also helped to fund tree planting and the concreting of the yard to improve water quality. We couldn't have wished for better guardians of this special place.”



## Mapping out the future

The phasing out of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy's basic payment scheme has now started. It is being replaced with Environmental Land Management Schemes which will reward growers for managing land in an environmentally sustainable way.

In preparation, the Estate is carrying out a Natural Capital Audit to map and measure the Estate's hedges, woodland, water courses and soils. The audit will also recognise the value of an initiative like the North Yorkshire WaterPark on people's physical and mental wellbeing. The Estate's new intern Hannah Wright, a recent graduate in Rural Property Management from Harper Adams University, is leading this project. She will use Google Earth, GPS and Estate maps, as well as check the on-the-ground conditions of our habitats.

