

Race to the top!

Two 100ft Douglas Fir poles from the Bedale valley on the Wykeham Estate have been craned into place at the Great Yorkshire Showground. They will be used in the spectacular Great British Pole Climbing Championships on 12 July. Sponsored by Dawnay Estates for the next three years, climbers race to the top of the poles in seconds.

"These poles replace the ones we donated in 2014," explains James Stephenson, Head of Property and Sporting. "We use Douglas Firs because they are tall and produce straight timber. Each pole is around 80 years old and weighs over six tons."



20 years old this year!

In 2003 the Dawnay Estates published its first newsletter, covering news from Wykeham Estate, Danby Estate and associated businesses.

Stories included Danby grouse shoot's best season since 1938 (2018 now holds the record) and TV's Ground Force gardening programme inspiring homeowners to buy from Wykeham Mature Plants.

Since then, the newsletter has recorded the Estate's major milestones, the development of the Wykeham Business Centre, the creation of the North Yorkshire Water Park, the winning the prestigious Bledisloe Gold Medal from the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

As well as featuring the unusual - an impromptu baptism given by Archbishop of York John Sentamu in Ruston stream and the largest Pike in England, all 46lb 11oz, being caught at Wykeham Lakes.



"It's fascinating to see a common thread in the stories," says Katrina Shamel, Lettings Manager and newsletter editor. "Twenty years ago Phoenix Farm Cottage had just been renovated. This year it's the turn of Abbotts Meadow, with a new roof and windows plus heating system and rewire. Perhaps the 2043 edition will cover the installation of AI parking systems and jet-pack landing spots?"

All past issues can be found at www.dawnay.co.uk/dawnay-estates-newsletter-archive



The dawning of the Dawnay'athlon

A team from the Estate is taking on three epic challenges to help three local charities. In mid June they climbed the highest mountains of England, Scotland and Wales in 24 hours. July sees them cycling 170 miles from Morecambe to Bridlington and swimming 21 miles - the equivalent of the English Channel - at North Yorkshire Water Park.

"A few colleagues within the Dawnay Estates' family of businesses wanted to train for a challenge," says St Helens Caravan Park office manager Louise Wilson. "So we've created our own 'Dawnay'athlon' of hike, bike and swim!"

The team are supporting the Get Max Moving charity set up for a local schoolboy suffering from cerebral palsy, Scarborough Survivors which supports mental health and Community Counselling, providing a crucial children's service.



Dawnay Estates

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Wykeham Mature Plants
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DAWNAY NEWS

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A SIREN CALL



In April the roads, lakes and skies in and around North Yorkshire Water Park were a flurry of activity. Fire and Rescue Service's water rescue teams, police and police divers, HM Coastguard, Yorkshire Ambulance Service, Helicopter Emergency Medical Service and Scarborough and Ryedale Mountain Rescue Team descended on the waterpark. The reason? One of the largest water-based training exercises in the North of England.

This was a multi-agency response to a fictional major incident and included drones and even helicopters. The water park was closed to the public, but the staff were on hand to lend their expertise and even act as would-be casualties. Representatives from the Armed Forces assessed the response using the JESIP framework, the gold standard for multi-agency working.

"As a volunteer for Filey Coastguard, I know how important it is to practise for major incidents," says Operations Manager James Whitehead. "We were proud to offer our site and staff to help the emergency services hone their specialist skills - and serve up some well earned bacon sarnies from our café once everyone was rescued!"



Our ecological oasis

When the North Yorkshire Water Park was enlarged two years ago, some feared the area's ecosystem would be affected. However a recent report shows wildlife is flourishing.

The Long-eared Owl and Black Redstart were new for 2022, bringing the number of bird species spotted to 212. Five new species of moth were recorded and dragonfly and damselfly populations continue to grow. There is even a colony of Common Lizards.

Dawnay Estates has also teamed up with local experts to help the UK's most threatened resident bird, spotted last year in this area for the first time.

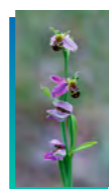


View Report

"The Willow Tit has been on the Birds of Conservation Concern Red List since 2002. They excavate dead wood for nest holes," explains Nick Addey, head of Scarborough Birders. "We're trialling wooden box frames filled with deadwood, placed in woodland to the west of the water sports lake. Keep your fingers crossed!"

"We are delighted to see the increase in species and population numbers," says David Steel, Chief Executive of Dawnay Estates. "It seems the wildlife has simply moved to quieter areas away from the main water sports lake. Hansons, who have been quarrying locally for more than 40 years, have kindly sponsored information boards along the main circular walk to share ecological insights with visitors."

North Yorkshire WaterPark Our Flora & Fauna APRIL 2023



"Wykeham Lakes is a mosaic of wetlands, woodlands and meadows which is home to a complex and diverse community of animals and plants. The importance of Wykeham Lakes to our local ecology should not be understated, with the site contributing to the recovery and safeguarding of some of the region's scarce species." Dan Lombard - Senior Ecologist, Wild Ecology Ltd

24 SPECIES OF BUTTERFLIES



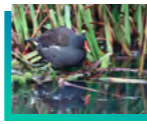
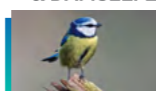
263 SPECIES OF INSECTS



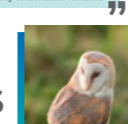
22 SPECIES OF DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES



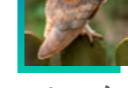
"There are justifiable concerns today about the effects of human activities on our flora and fauna. The North Yorkshire Water Park Lakes and Long Causeway areas are successfully bucking that trend providing a thriving natural sanctuary for a whole host of flora and fauna." Allan Rodda - Conservation Officer, Butterfly Conservation Yorkshire



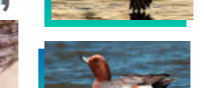
212 SPECIES OF BIRDS



"The North Yorkshire Waterpark plays host to a fantastic variety of bird species, somewhat akin to a thriving oasis created from what once was a 'farmland desert' in ecology terms." Nick Addey - Head of Scarborough Birders



7 SPECIES OF BATS



65% OF YORKSHIRE'S DRAGONFLY & DAMSELFLY SPECIES HAVE BEEN FOUND AT THE WATERPARK



Download

541 SPECIES OF MOTHS

"Dragonflies are dependant on cleanwater to complete their life cycle and are an excellent indicator of a rich and biodiverse habitat. At North Yorkshire Water Park, away from the waterparks main activities, many species of dragonflies and damselflies are flourishing." Keith Gittens - British Dragonfly Society

Ever green, ever brown and ever vigilant

This spring Wykeham Mature Plants nursery was proud to be accredited as Plant Healthy by the Plant Health Alliance whose members include the RHS and The National Trust. The scheme aims to stop the import and spread of destructive pests and diseases which haven't yet reached the UK's shores. Records, processes and procedures, including quarantine measures, were scrutinised during in-person inspections.

"With the Xyella fastidiosa bacteria, spruce bark beetle and other serious pests now threatening a wide range of species on the European mainland, it is vital we play our part," explains General Manager Adam Smith. "The journey to accreditation was definitely worthwhile. Being Plant Healthy

reassures both the government's Animal and Plant Health Agency and our customers of our commitment to supply healthy, disease-free mature trees and shrubs."

The popularity of the nursery's instant hedging plants continues to soar. As does interest in 'everbrown' hornbeam and beech to conceal unsightly views and ugly buildings nearby. *"Theoretically these trees are deciduous, but they often retain their leaves during winter," says Adam. "This makes them ideal for privacy screening. As they are not evergreen, there are also fewer planning issues surrounding their planting."*



On target in supporting community charities



The Estate regularly hosts a charity Clay Pigeon Shoot for up to 40 teams of four competing around Wykeham Estate. The event has raised more than £205,000 since 2017. This year's beneficiaries were Support Dogs, the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust and Scarborough and Ryedale Mountain Rescue.

"Once again we were lucky with the weather" says Head of Property and Sporting James Stephenson. "The teams enjoyed the challenges of the different terrains across the Estate, as well as the champagne reception and lunch, followed by a charity auction, in the grounds of Wykeham Abbey. Support Dog "Dawnay" was the special guest and we are delighted that this year we raised £55,000 for the charities."



To book for the 23rd May 2024 event, please contact James on james.stephenson@dawnay.co.uk

On target for more fun and games

The North Yorkshire Water Park may be the North of England's largest aqua adventure park. But there's a huge range of dry land activities too. The new 'Adventure Wood' hosts bushcraft, woodland crafting, pond-dipping and foraging sessions as well as a low ropes course. Archery, laser tag and axe-throwing open later this summer.

"Multi-generational families, friends and corporate teams now have more options than ever," explains General Manager Gareth Davies. "Our two identical puzzle rooms allow teams of up to 10 to race each other in logic, skill and reasoning. Come autumn, guests can enjoy an 'Escape Room' based on the First World War's RAF West Ayton which stood on this very spot!"



Solar, cycling and a sumptuous new lodge



As the summer heats up, so will the sustainability of Wykeham's St Helens in the Park caravan and camping site. A third of its power will soon be generated by 300 ground-mounted solar panels hidden in a well-screened field, underplanted with a colourful wildflower meadow mix.

"We take our environmental responsibilities very seriously on the park and are signed up to the prestigious David Bellamy

"Pledge for nature". Cutting our carbon footprint seemed to be the next logical step. So we have taken advantage of a nearby field with a perfect south-facing slope to install the solar panels," explains Manager Simon Roe.

"The solar panels will also charge our cleaning team's new electric mini-van!"

Pedal power has gone up a gear with the launch of Bayhire's new Wykeham



Cycle Hub. There are road bikes, mountain bikes and electric bikes – all with puncture-resistant tyres – as well as tagalongs, child and dog trailers. *"It's the perfect location for cyclists," explains owner Matthew Lancaster.*

"There are so many cycling routes in this area, from a smooth swoop down to the North Yorkshire Water Park to new gravel tracks for all

abilities though the forestry above Wykeham and into the North York Moors."

And after a day in the saddle, how about an evening star-gazing from a private hot tub? The newly refurbished and luxurious Bedale View Lodge sleeps six, with three bedrooms, two bathrooms, BBQ and a decking area.