

Long Causeway Road Butterfly Transect

At times an Estate's or Farmer's contribution to the well-being of insect and butterfly life is not fully realised, that is until the work of people like Peter Robinson has been fully appreciated. He has been carrying out inspections on an area of the Estate known as "the Long Causeway" adjacent to Wykeham Lakes. This follows preliminary recording in June 2007 which clearly indicated a high number of butterfly species in a diverse habitat. The stretch of Long Causeway selected was accepted as a National Butterfly Transect and the first report was submitted in 2009.

The total butterflies recorded in 2009 (611) was disappointingly low due to the weather conditions, but significant increases in numbers were measured in 2010 and 2011 (a total of 699), but in 2012 the numbers dropped quite dramatically. In 2013, however, the fine spell of summer weather in May through to September resulted in a dramatic increase to a total of 1443 butterflies!



Cutting of the roadside verges in July and August of the Long Causeway has also promoted and maintained a diverse sward rich in nectaring and larval food plants which have proved beneficial to the butterfly population. The number of individual butterflies and their species recorded along the Long Causeway transect indicate an area of diverse and healthily balanced habitats.

It is a very pleasant surprise to find such a success on your doorstep.

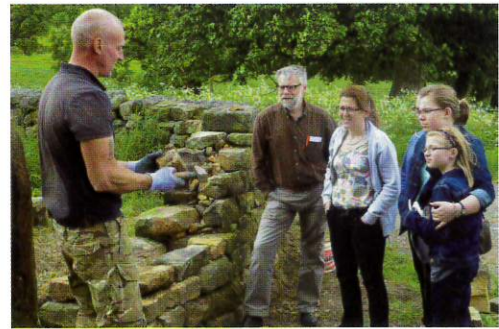
Open Farm Sunday at Stonebeck Gate Farm

In partnership with the North Yorkshire Moors National Park and by kind permission of Andrew & Jill Kelly, the Estate opened the gates of Stonebeck Gate Farm to the members of the public eager to understand the machinations of modern upland farming, and moorland management. The event was blessed by another predictably errant piece of meteorology which saw bright sunshine in place of the forecasted heavy downpours and those individuals who took advantage of this free public event were welcomed by a menagerie of animals, displays and fine Yorkshire cooking all set against the incredible, unspoiled backdrop of Little Fryup, and the recently restored traditional farmyard at Stonebeck Gate.

collection of poultry and livestock.

The day also provided an opportunity for people to gain an understanding of the intricacies of running an upland farm and the heather moor and the symbiosis between ecology and farming which is supported by the Higher Level Stewardship scheme which provides grant money for the implementation of moorland management and farming practices sympathetic to the retention of key historical features, the flora and protection of wildlife areas supporting delicate ecosystems.

The feedback received from the public (over 250 of them!) has been fantastic and has more than encouraged all involved to start planning for next year's event. Thanks should go in particular to Sally-Ann Smith and Andrew & Jill Kelly for their work both in preparation and in the running of the day.



Guests were treated to sheep shearing and dry stone walling demonstrations and Peter Turnbull, the Estate contract shepherd, gave a terrific 'one man and his dog' display showing the potential of a sheep dog in the right hands!

Anyone with an historical interest in local architecture or antiquated agricultural tools of yesteryear could harvest the encyclopaedic knowledge of Eddie Robinson, local history enthusiast and collector in the on-site museum, before getting hands-on amongst the assorted



Behind the Scenes – Chris Tedman, The Clock Winder



Shortly after arriving at Wykeham, I was given the "temporary task" of winding, and looking after the Church clock. Dave Charlton was approaching retirement, and had been the keeper of the clock for several years. I was to be his temporary stand in. The advantage being that I could finish half an hour early on a Friday. Somehow this advantage never came forth!

The clock in the tower at Wykeham was made in 1901 by the Leeds company of William Potts and Sons, who have been making clocks since 1862. Many local churches, and other public buildings, have clocks from the Potts company.

Winding the clock was a weekly task, and lubrication, according to the Potts manual, should be with "best quality whale oil", so difficult to find these days! I found that "3 in 1" from Halfords was ok. To my huge relief the winding mechanism was electrified about 4 years ago, dispensing with the Friday trip to the tower. The most trying times are the twice yearly hour changes, which I am afraid take place at about 6pm, rather than the official time of 3am! The chime has to be re-synchronised with the time, as the clock goes backward, or forward. Plenty of scope for disaster here!



The clock is fairly accurate, even after 113 years. The speed is regulated with the addition, or subtraction of 1p coins according to the season; not very hi tech, but it works.

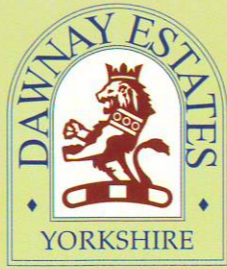
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Dawnay News

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Welcome to the Autumn newsletter

Ten years ago the Wykeham and Lora Farm buildings looked like something out of Beirut circa 1985. The development of the Wykeham Business Centre saved them from terminal decline. Now buildings originally designed for Friesian cows, are comfortably housing main frame computers. So it goes.

The Viscount Downe

Wykeham Business Centre – 10th Anniversary



On the 22nd September 2004 HRH the Duke of Kent officially opened the Wykeham Business Centre (WBC). The development was designed to prevent the loss of traditional buildings by converting them into modern workspaces that would sit easily within the rural environment and in turn encourage new businesses to move into the area. Ten years on it is a successful and sustainable example of rural diversification and regeneration.

The project was designed with the help of "Rural Solutions" and after eighteen months of painstaking work the magnificent restoration of the existing buildings emerged from the near ruins. It was not long after the neighbours in the village started to become used to the quiet of the occasional tapping of a computer, the ringing of a telephone, and the arrival of about 35 employees in their cars. This compared with cattle in the two former covered yards and Wykeham Farm's grain dryer, and this ignores the fruity smells emanating from the cattle. In other words a complete "transformation"!

WBC provides a very different working environment to the normal town centre offices and its biggest advantages are the "rural" location and fibre optic internet. It is situated in tranquil countryside but not isolated as it is just off the A170, just a few miles west of Scarborough. It has the absence of town centre congestion and parking worries, but is easily accessible and this has recently attracted local companies, Lawrence Neil Wealth Management, the long established firm of solicitors, Longstaff and Midgley and



the Scarborough Music Academy to relocate to Wykeham.

Whilst location is still important the biggest challenge over the past 10 years has been to keep abreast of modern technology. The WBC was fortunate in that its first occupants were C-ways, a leading IT solutions provider. They were instrumental in installing a cutting edge Broadband service via a satellite system. However, with the advent of high speed cable internet this system needed upgrading and in May 2010 the Estate made the decision to bring its own super-fast 100meg fibre optic connection directly into the WBC. C-ways again provided the expertise to create a wireless network to spread this connectivity to the many other businesses and dwellings on the Estate.

It is this ability to adapt the traditional, embrace progress and effect positive change which has resulted in the WBC becoming the focal point of a thriving economic community and which continues to grow. It is with excitement that the WBC looks forward to the challenges of the next 10 years!



Welcomes and Farewells

Farewell –

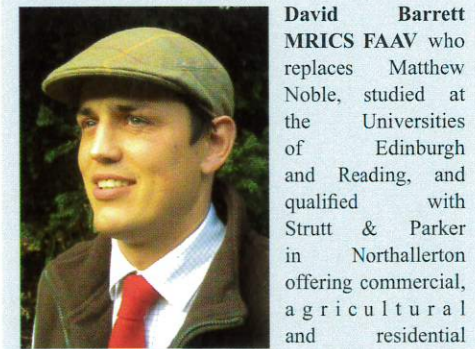
Matthew Noble MRICS, the Assistant Agent, left the Estate in March after fifteen years to run a bed and breakfast (Aurifat – Maison d'hôtes) in Cordes Sur Ciel, France. Matthew, his wife Kay and daughter Niambh are enjoying their new life in France having worked very hard to improve the property and are receiving their first bookings. Matthew was initially employed to assist the Estates Director and oversee Forestry and Environmental Services, but in time took over the additional role of Building Maintenance Manager with responsibility for the Estate's maintenance department. This work led to Matthew qualifying as a Chartered Surveyor in the Building Surveying faculty.



The demands of the job became so great that by the time of his departure it has been decided to appoint a qualified Land Agent and a separate Building Services Manager (see below).

In recognition of Matthew's management of the Forestry an oak plantation near Wykeham Lakes has been re-named "The Noble Plantation". Matthew and his family depart with the Estate's good wishes.

Welcome –



David Barrett MRICS FAHV who replaces Matthew Noble, studied at the Universities of Edinburgh and Reading, and qualified with Strutt & Parker in Northallerton offering commercial, agricultural and residential professional advice to private clients. David will assist Robert Sword (Estates Director) with the management of the let Estate, the shoots at both Wykeham and Danby, Forestry and Environmental Services.

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Welcome –



David Todd MRICS B.Ed Dip RSA who has joined the Estate’s maintenance team as Building Services Manager will be overseeing the repairs, maintenance and future developments on the Estate. Dave was previously in charge of Building Control for North Yorkshire. This is the first time that the Estate has employed a full time Building Services Manager and recognises the growth in the workload and projects across the two Estates.



Kristian Smith joins the Wykeham shoot team as Under Keeper and replaces Matthew Nessfield who left to assist his father following a serious injury.

Condolences –

Gordon Barnett died on 19 May and his funeral service took place at St Helen and All Saints Church, Wykeham on 29 May. He took over the tenancy of Manor Farm, Ruston from his father Arthur in April 1992.

Gordon had a great affection for livestock and built up a 1,000 sheep flock over the near 400 acres at Manor Farm. Much of the farm was grassland but he also grew wheat, barley, root crops and oil seed rape. Gordon had a traditional but single minded approach and ran the farm largely on his own.

In 1996 he married Anne who supported him in many of the farming activities. She was often seen driving one of the tractors either cultivating or assisting with the harvest.

Gordon took an interest in village life and recently became a Parish Councillor as well as a member of the Parochial Church Council. He kept his ear to the ground and often called in at the Estate Office with useful advice!

His sudden death was a shock to everyone and we all miss his enquiring mind and the contribution he made to farming and village life.



Danby Moors contribution for Better Outcomes on Upland Commons



Court Leet, shooting interests, ramblers, English Heritage, Natural England and Parish Councils. The workshops were led by representatives from the National Park and Natural England.

The report is in its final stages of completion, but it has already been noted that the Danby Moors is a fine model, largely as a result of the active commitment and co-operation between the Estate and the users of the common. The contribution played by the Danby Court Leet was also felt to be a key component in providing a structure through which so much of the liaison between the local community, Estate and farmers takes place, showing the continued relevance of this fine sixteenth century Institution.

It was also noted how the Danby Moors Environmental Stewardship Scheme has created a cohesion which has resulted in a dramatic improvement in the condition of the moor – grouse, sheep and vegetation.

The “Better Outcomes on Upland Commons” inspired by HRH Prince Charles has commissioned Julia Aglionby of the Foundation for Common Land to prepare a report identifying the management, social and economic interaction between the users of Upland Commons.

A Common in each of the English National Parks was chosen as a test case and the Danby Moors represented the Upland Common in the North York Moors National Park.

Several “workshops” took place with the users of the Common to include the graziers, Danby

The Great Yorkshire Show – Climbing Poles



The Estate donated a new set of poles to this year’s Great Yorkshire Show, following a decision that the existing climbing poles were no longer safe. The trees used were from a 71 year old stand of Douglas Fir. They had to be carefully chosen so that once the branches were removed there was a clear stem for climbing of 85 feet above the ground held securely in place by 10 feet below the ground.

There is a strong connection between the Dawnay Estates and growing trees, with its interest in forestry going back over a hundred years, and more recently Wykeham Mature Plants which produces high quality semi-mature trees, hedging and shrubs for both the domestic and commercial landscaping markets. The Dawnay Estates Director, Robert Sword, has also been the

Forestry Steward at the Great Yorkshire Show for over 25 years.

The trees, once they had been felled and debarked, had to be transported to the Showground with an escort by Stiller Transport. On arrival at the Showground two cranes from Emsley Crane Hire lifted the existing poles out of their steel sockets and the new ones, chocked and secured into the same sockets.



Wykeham Lakes Fishery

In 2012 the Fishery and Watersports were brought back in-hand and the Fishery is now being run by the St Helens in the Park team with Jake Finnigan ably taking the helm as the resident warden. The Fishery continues to offer first class carp, course, trout and pike fishing with improvements being made to the fishery platforms and lakeside environment.

Jake, assisted by Bill Ridick and several friends, have worked extremely hard on the fishing areas. New wooden platforms, longer and wider than the previous older versions now grace the bank sides. An eternal problem on the carp lake has been the number of tree stumps, which were dumped into the water when the lake was restored after gravel extraction. These stumps have been a continual “thorn in the side” to many anglers, as well as holding firm to innumerable fishing rigs. Jake has used winches, tow ropes and muscle to shift a dozen or so of these beasts. Life is now better for the carp angler, and Jake has buckets full of lead weights.

The predator lake has produced large pike after large pike. The walls of the cabin are decorated with trophy photos, within ounces of the UK national record. Perhaps we will achieve the record this winter!

The caravans are returning to the small CL Caravan site at Wykeham Lakes, which looks as pretty as ever. The Caravan Club had a successful

Wykeham Mature Plants

York Racecourse

York Racecourse is currently revamping its pre-parade ring and associated buildings. As part of this project Wykeham Mature Plants were chosen to supply and plant an avenue of trees in the car park, shade trees and hedges around the pre-parade ring and screening to the new buildings.



The planting is being done in phases as and when landscaping areas become available and has to be fitted in between race meetings. The project is now about half way through and is going well.

Easter rally, and other visitors are booking rallies for next year.

Wykeham Lakes Watersports

The Watersports Centre on the larger of the five lakes is currently being managed on a caretaker basis offering permit holders the opportunity to sail, windsurf and swim (long distance). Currently no training is being offered from the Centre, but in due course once a new Operator has been found and the Centre registered with the Royal Yachting Association it is hoped that it will be fully re-established as an important regional sailing and watersports centre.



The Lake forms the base of the Wykeham Model Yachting Club and twenty or so model yachts take part in a weekly “regatta”.

Wykeham Watersports also features as the base for one of the Scarborough Cavaliers Rotary Club fundraising events by way of Dragon Boat racing.



It had not been appreciated what goes into the running of a racecourse and keeping it in tip top order. A tremendous amount of work goes into the soil profiles and grass for the race track and the parade ground in order to keep them well drained, fertile and in good condition. This has had the added benefit of producing perfect soil conditions for the planting of trees.

Race day is just the tip of the iceberg; in between the seventeen days of racing the course is used for a multiple of other uses such as conferences and weddings, and this year the second day of the Tour de France! This means the site needs to be looking pristine all the year round, Wykeham Mature Plants making its own useful contribution.



Twenty sponsored rowing boats spent a glorious sunny day competing with each other and in the end raised over £20,000 for various charities. 1,200 visitors came to take part, watch or cheer on their sponsored teams. The eventual winner was Scarborough Rowing Club Junior Team and this, the third year was again a great success and the Watersports Centre a wonderful resource for similar events.



Estate Associations – Blue Raptor Signs

Blue Raptor Signs who occupy the largest unit at Farfield Workspace have designed and built the six metre free standing “Monolith” signs to ensure York’s new Vangarde Shopping Park is an unmissable retail destination



The Park features a long awaited John Lewis and the region’s largest M&S store alongside various food outlets. The development was devised to target a BREEAM ‘Excellent’ rating with sustainability considered throughout the design and build of the site, and in elements such as the park’s signage where energy efficient LEDs were chosen.

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