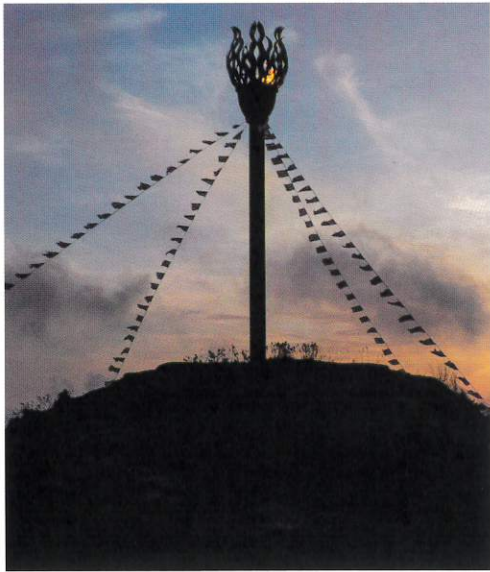


## A Beacon for the Queen

The Queen's 90th Birthday was celebrated by lighting the Danby Beacon as part of a chain of over 1000 beacons lit on the evening of 21st April. A beacon has stood on Danby Low Moor since the 1600's and in its early days was lit to warn of impending attack during the Napoleonic wars, to be replaced by a radar station during the 2nd World War.

The modern beacon represents more peaceful times and it's lighting by Lord Downe, together with the reading of an acknowledgement by HRH Prince of Wales of the Queen's great contribution to the nation was followed by the singing of the National Anthem. The event was completed by three cheers, prayers read by the vicar Michael Hazette and the cutting of a birthday cake by 90 years old Elizabeth Rudsdale.



## Open Farm Sunday – 5th June 2016



Local children and visitors can see behind the scenes of a working livestock farm on the annual Open Farm Sunday. This year it's being held on Sunday 5th June 2016 at Stonebeck Gate Farm near Danby. Visitors can learn about sheep dog training, drystone walling, sheep shearing, moorland management and a wide range of farm livestock.

There will be face painting, the ever-popular pop-up tea room and lots of farm livestock to look at. It will also be an opportunity to learn about moorland management and the diverse habitat that attracts curlew, lapwing, merlin and golden plover.



## The Archbishop, the Brook and the Baptism

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, has been donning walking boots for a Diocesan Pilgrimage of Prayer, Witness and Blessing. On a wet day in January, he walked from Hutton Buscel to Wykeham, Ruston and eventually Pickering, passing behind the Estate Office on the former LNER railway track (closed in 1950). Just less than a mile down the track in the centre of Ruston a rather unusual event took place - an outdoor baptism!

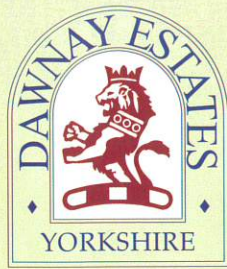


"In a place called Ruston, the ford was in full flow" recounts the Archbishop. After talking to the Long family, he discovered that little Amelia hadn't yet been baptised, so he offered to baptise her there and then. The Archbishop described it as "a very moving experience."

## Summer Events

**6th August:** Dog show at St Helen's Caravan Park in aid of Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Includes agility demonstrations and waggiest tail competitions.

**12th June:** Charity Dragon Boat Racing at Wykeham Watersports Lake organised by the Rotary Club. Teams of 16 paddlers attempt a 250-metre long course.



# Dawnay News

www.dawnay.co.uk

### Welcome to the Summer newsletter

Since the last Newsletter, the Estate has been privileged to be the location for a rare outdoor baptism by the Archbishop of York, the lighting of the historic beacon at Danby to celebrate Her Majesty's ninetieth birthday and of course a few good quality storms. Read and enjoy.

*The Viscount Downe*

## A New Angle for Anglers

This year St Helen's Caravan Park and Wykeham Lakes are teaming up to hook new visitors. Their new Fish And Stay initiative is designed to reel in anglers who want great fishing, accommodation and good food on their doorstep.

Fishermen can enjoy the tranquillity of four fishing lakes; just bring your own kit and Warden, Jake Finnigan will show you the best spots and recommend the best baits.

"You can try your luck with trout fishing from bank or boat. The coarse lake is packed with lily pads, reeds and bays. Or maybe you want the challenge of perch, rudd and even a 46lb 11oz pike?" explains Jake. "With free parking and a comfortable fishing lodge, you're guaranteed a day out in beautiful surroundings."

The keenest anglers can pitch at the Caravan Club Certified site just a few yards away from the lakes.



This idyllic location has five spacious pitches with water and electric hook-ups. Alternatively, a couple of miles away is the award winning AA 5 Pennant St Helen's Caravan Park; with 240 caravan and 33 camping pitches as well as 10 wooden camping pods there's plenty of choice. Set in 36 acres of beautiful country side there are adult only sections, a children's play area and a six acre country park where dogs can be walked.

For those wanting a little more luxury, or just great food and cask ales, a five minute drive takes you to the Downe Arms Hotel that boasts 10 beautiful ensuite bedrooms, a bar and a restaurant.



### Welcomes and Farewells

#### Welcome –

A warm welcome is extended to Andrew Backhouse who has been appointed as Manager of St Helen's Caravan Park and Wykeham Fishing Lakes, Josh Beckett and Luke Knowles, beatkeepers who have joined the team at the Wykeham Shoot and Josh Briggs who works in the Forestry Department.



Andrew Backhouse



Josh Beckett



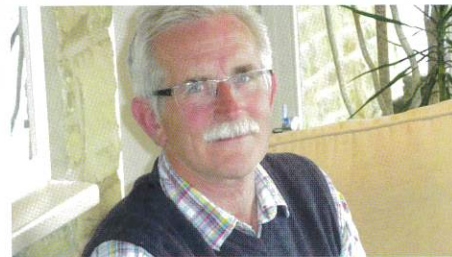
Luke Knowles



Josh Briggs

#### Farewell –

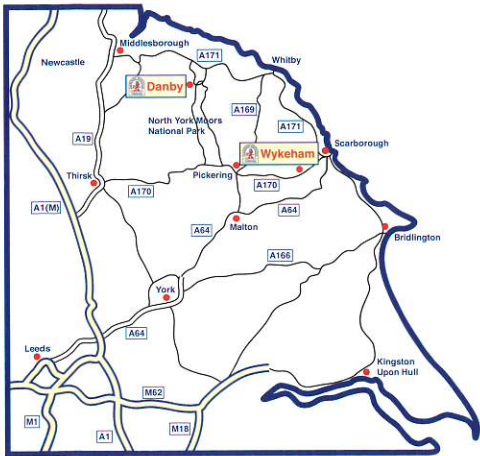
Farewells have been said to Chris Tedman who managed St Helen's Caravan Park for 18 years and was instrumental in creating the award winning Park it is today, and Kristian Smith, beatkeeper at Wykeham and Mark Taylor, beatkeeper at Danby. Also leaving for pastures new, or should that be waters new, is "Captain" Eric Casson who supervised the operation at Wykeham Watersports over the last two years.



Chris Tedman

#### Condolences –

And with great sadness we say goodbyes to two well-loved characters who lived, worked and recently died on the Estate; Les Dees 1932 - 2015 and Harry Corney 1940 - 2016



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Dawnay Sporting:  
www.dawnaysporting.co.uk

Downe Arms Hotel:  
www.downearmsotel.co.uk

Forrester's Lodge self-catering:  
www.forresterlodge.com

Newlife Yorkshire Furniture:  
www.newlifeyorkshire.com

St Helen's In the Park Caravan Park:  
www.sthelenscaravanpark.co.uk

Wykeham Lakes:  
www.wykehamlakes.co.uk

Wykeham Mature Plants:  
www.wykehammatureplants.co.uk





## Feeling The Heat

A very recent addition to the Estate are two new linked biomass boilers. History has come full-circle, as a woodchip boiler used to heat the Abbey when installed in the late 1970's. The new woodchip boilers will provide heating for eight flats, maintenance workshops, garages and also Wykeham Abbey.

"Changes to oil prices and the government's Renewable Heat Incentive means we will have to keep a close eye on the economic viability of biomass fuel," says Assistant Agent, David Barrett.



## Standing Up To Stormy Weather

Last winter's storms of Desmond, Eva and Frank killed off many a fence panel. Since then, Wykeham Mature Plants has seen a surge in interest from people rethinking how to maintain their boundaries. With more than four decades of experience, Wykeham Mature Plants offers some great options of semi-mature trees, shrubs and conifers for homeowners and landscape gardeners alike.

"Sometimes fence panels aren't the best solution,



"At the moment, we are buying in wood chip. But in two years' time our own timber will have been stock piled and dried out enough to make the boilers self-sustaining. We plan to use timber from the first thinnings of the forestry estate." The fact that there is sufficient woodland on the Estate is a real economic and environmental benefit as now timber which would once have been wasted can be turned into energy.

The 440 kilowatt boilers require 250 tonnes per annum of renewable resource wood chip to heat the



10,000 litres of water which is then pumped around the district heating system; saving 60,000 litres of oil per year. This heavily insulated and intricate "loop" of pipework enables a constant supply of hot water to flow past the heat exchanger of each flat, which in turn transfers the heat and warms the water used in the individual properties.

The system is not only environmentally friendly and massively efficient but was installed in record time by Hull based Hall Renewables in just over four months.

hedging projects. These gardening magicians also pride themselves on giving aftercare advice.

"We can make views of ugly neighbouring properties or unsightly scenes disappear. With the right framing, good views become even better," adds Adam. "If you'd like to see our range of living screens, instant hedging, clipped box and yew or pleached trees, please call by the walled garden for a visit." or check the website [www.wykehammatureplants.co.uk](http://www.wykehammatureplants.co.uk)



## Wood You Believe It?

Last year the Farfield Workspaces, built on the site of the former Estate Sawmill, celebrated its tenth anniversary. Its cedar clad and stone workshops house manufacturers as diverse as mobility equipment, surfboards, glitter tattoos, a dental technician and NHS supplies. With its fibre optic 100MB internet connection, it can also cater for the most high-tech of internet-dependent businesses despite its rural location. There are eleven tenants, "Our newest tenant, Makersmith constructs objects of any shape from wood, plastic, paper or textiles." says Katrina Shamel, the Centre manager.

Just down the road, an eco-friendly furniture and restoration business has set up at Wykeham Village Farm's old dairy. The milking parlour has been transformed into workshops and a display area. "Newlife" also runs furniture painting workshops and provides an environmentally-sensitive blast renovation service for timber, stone, brick or metal.



## Dawnay Sporting

Dawnay Sporting has become one of the more important enterprises on the Estate with an excellent run of grouse numbers over five years of 12,750 brace (an average at Danby of 2,550 brace per annum). The early counts for 2016 are looking encouraging and even more so on the Low Moor which two years ago suffered from a major setback from an attack of heather beetle. Hopefully the storms over the last year will have blown most of the beetles away! It has also been an excellent winter for muir burning.



Wykeham Shoot has also had a good run with excellent bookings over the last two years and the shoot is fully booked for this season. The partridge shooting is increasingly popular, and even more so during the pheasant shooting with some drives producing a diverse mix of partridge and pheasant over the guns. The topography within Beedale is perfect for showing flushes of high partridge within a beautiful grassland setting.

Dawnay Sporting will be represented at the Driffield Show on 20th July and at the launch of Cordings new shop in Harrogate on the evening of 21st July.

## Rooftop Revelations

There are many benefits of having a high roofline, but it is fair to say none of them came to mind when the Maintenance department was asked to lift several tonnes of lead onto the Abbey's roof! In the end the lead was moved with the aid of a crane. It is interesting how history repeats itself; the valleys were originally made of lead, which was replaced in the seventies with a high tech substance called nuralite. It now seems the Victorians got it right after all and having returned to lead, the recent replacement should last well over 100 years.



## Bouquets, Beaming Smiles and Beams

The Estate has been the setting for many couples tying the knot. Jane and Paul Bower bought the lease to Wykeham's Downe Arms Hotel in 2008, with two weddings on the books. They now host more than sixty weddings a year as well as countless christening, anniversary and birthday celebrations. There are ten individually styled and beautifully furnished en-suite bedrooms for guests. Ample parking, Tucker's bar, and its 50-cover restaurant mean it's become a popular venue for get-togethers.

Another wedding venue which has been a great success is Danby Castle in the Esk Valley. The Estate is working with Carolyn Wood and Phil Moore to convert a beautiful stone barn as a function room which will provide an all year round venue for wedding receptions. This follows the restoration of the 14th century hammer beam roof which provides additional and distinctive bedroom space. The repair of the roof and adjacent stone barn are the last major projects in the Estate's long term plan, started some thirty years ago, to restore this historic building to its former glory and for a modern use.

