

A change of tack

For many years the Tack Room at Wykeham Abbey was used as a store. It's now been transformed into a venue for up to 25 people. The original wooden panelling and glass cabinetry has been retained. But now the room is much more inviting with the addition of heating from the new biomass boiler to supplement the open fire, task lighting and original art work by Coral Rose decorating the walls. With no need to take off muddy footwear, it's a perfect venue for running practical courses such as flower arranging, deer-stalking and health and safety.



Sorting the Snags

The two acre Coarse Lake at Wykeham Lakes has had a spring clean. A netting session to establish fish stock levels was hampered by tree stumps and roots lying on the bottom of the lake. These "snags", which also cause problems for anglers when fishing tackle gets caught, had to be removed and drastic action was called for. High volume pumps drained the lake to a depth of 4 feet enabling Jake Finegan, the lakes supervisor, to wade chest deep through the water to attach steel cables. Once attached the "snags" were hauled out by a ten ton winch and tractor.



The operation took a week of hard work during a very cold January in order to minimise disturbance to the fish, but as Jake says this essential maintenance has created "space for the large species including Carp, Bream, Crucian Carp and Roach to grow and flourish and will result in a better fishing experience for the angler"

Events in 2017

Point to Point (Staintondale Hunt)
Charm Park, Wykeham:
Easter Monday 17th April

Books by the Beach
Scarborough Book Festival at the Old Kitchen:
Daisy Goodwin 26th April

Charity Clay Shoot
Wykeham Abbey & Estate: 25th May

Dragon Boat Racing
Wykeham Lakes: Sunday 11th June

Open Farm Sunday
Stonebeck Gate Farm, Little Fryup, Danby:
11th June

Inter Estate Cricket Match
Guisborough versus Dawnay - July (tbc)



Dawnay News

www.dawnay.co.uk

Welcome to our Spring newsletter

Maintaining an Estate is quite like painting the Forth Bridge. There is always something to do. Recently the Estate has been doing up cowsheds! In Wykeham one has been transformed into an art gallery (see page 2) whilst at Danby Castle a medieval barn has been converted into a Wedding Venue. It is a fitting tribute to the original builders that the sheds are still in use many hundreds of years after they were originally built, even if they are now used for a completely different purpose!

The Viscount Downe

Happily ever after at Danby Castle

The 13th century Danby Castle on the North York Moors has been welcoming guests for eons. Esk Valley Weddings has continued this tradition, and with the rising popularity of winter celebrations, there was a need to relocate events from a marquee to the medieval barn. As the building is Grade I listed and lies within the grounds of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, this joint venture with the Estate presented many challenges.

"We wanted to preserve the building's character whilst providing a warm, weather-tight venue capable of accommodating 100 guests," explains Carolyn Moore, Director of Weddings at Danby Castle. "We worked closely with the National Park planners, building control and conservation experts to make sure all materials were sympathetic to the building's heritage. This included using horse and goat hair daub, re-pointing using lime mortar and installing a wood-burning stove."

For the roofing, local suppliers, AS Roofing of Scarborough, Ivy Construction and Burton Roofing Merchants selected a breathable membrane felt for the restored roof. Laid over timber rafters, it provides insulation whilst preventing condensation.

"People absolutely love this beautiful space," says Carolyn. "We have weddings booked from Easter onwards. We are also now able to widen our offering to host community events, baby-naming ceremonies, family celebrations and shooting



parties. So far we've hosted a Mistletoe Ball and Christmas Craft Fair raising money for charities such as The Down's Syndrome Association and Esk Moors Caring."

Dave Todd, Buildings Services Manager for the Dawnay Estates is also delighted with the final outcome which combines the old and the new in a sympathetic manner to present externally a rural agricultural group of buildings, with a traditionally restored interior designed to provide facilities for weddings, functions and dancing; in all an excellent compromise between old and new.

This unique venue is always in demand but Carolyn is always happy to discuss a potential booking, and can be contacted on 01287 669219, or take a look online at www.eskvalleyweddings.com.



Welcomes and farewells

Welcome –



A warm welcome to Tina Watson, who has joined the accounts team at the Estate Office, and James Whithead supervisor and instructor at Wykeham Watersports.

And a big hello to the newest members of the Estate community, baby Riley, born to Lee Yarrow and Jo Paterson and Charlie, Josh and Harriet Beckett's new son.

Farewell –

Happy retirement to Brad Barker who ran the butcher's stall at the Wykeham Village Market for over 12 years and with best wishes to Daniella Lawson as she leaves to pursue her career in accounting.

Condolences –

A fond goodbye to Win Jackson (1928 – 2016) who with her husband Bill lived and farmed on the Estate for over 50 years. Win played a leading role in Young Farmers, the WI and later in life became a magistrate.

And very recently Dave Wilson, a long service beat-keeper on the Danby Moors, died recently following a tragic accident. Dave had completed nearly 30 years service and was dedicated to his beat, Trough House on Danby High Moor. Dave was well known for his distinctive dry sense of humour and his great ability to get on with everyone. All those who knew or worked with him will miss him terribly. He leaves a widow, Sophie, a son and daughter and two step children.



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Dawnay Estates:
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www.eskvalleyweddings.com

Dawnay Sporting:
www.dawnaysporting.co.uk

Downe Arms Hotel:
www.downearmshotel.co.uk

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

Doing the splits for a ‘four-tunate’ solution

When a company restructure led to the departure of a long-standing tenant of Wykeham’s Business Centre, the Estate took the opportunity to take a fresh look at the space available.

“We knew from our waiting list that businesses are looking for smaller spaces than the 2,000 square feet No. 3 Langley House offered,” explains Lettings Manager, Katrina Shamel. “We therefore split the two storey space into four offices. We also carried out a complete refurbishment. New flooring and lighting was installed and the IT infrastructure was upgraded.”

Two of the offices were immediately rented off-plan. One was taken by an existing Business Centre client Jepson Longstaff Midgely, who after a merger needed larger premises; another was chosen by Diabetic Retinal Screening Services because it had parking, reliable WiFi, good access for drivers and was a more convenient location than their previous base in Scarborough.

“It is lovely to have the flexibility of our very own space, where we can put down roots and grow,” says fellow tenant Joanna Taylor of The School of Clinical Neurolinguistic Hypnotherapy. “It is particularly useful that the offices have wheelchair access, which is important for our less mobile clients and students, and Wykeham Tearooms is

literally round the corner and can provide catering for the courses I run.”

The final new addition is the Wild Country Fine Art gallery, run by North Yorkshire wildlife artists Diane Todd who recently graduated in Fine Art, Coral Rose who exhibits at game fairs across the UK, plus international award-winning artist Alan M Hunt, and globally-acclaimed equine artist Judi Kent Pyrah. Judi explains, “We are a pretty unique gallery where all the exhibited art is related to wildlife, game and country pursuits.”

The gallery is also available to hire for corporate events, lectures, art classes and meetings. All that is required is a quick call to Katrina Shamel



at the Estate Office, (01723 866600) or email k.shamel@dawnay.co.uk.



Past the target for the best year of shooting yet

As the Newsletter goes to press “Dawnay Sporting” has completed probably one of the busiest seasons across the two Estates. Shooting of grouse commenced in late August 2016, followed by partridge and pheasant at Wykeham; over five month’s of sporting game.

What may surprise the reader is the involvement of so many people from keepers (7 in all), beaters (between 18 and 25 each day), pickers up (3 on each day), caterers (2 on each day), not to mention the hotels, fuel stations and taxi services to airports and rail stations; all as a result of well over 100 days shooting.

Whilst the economy remains relatively strong the demand for game shooting continues to grow year on year with the majority of available dates already booked. A very good reason for a well-deserved rest for the keepers and their staff before the rearing season starts in April/May.



Charity Clay Shoot

The Estate is to host a day clay shooting in aid of two charities. Organised by Assistant Agent, David Barrett, teams of four guns are being invited to shoot five varied ‘drives’ at Wykeham Abbey and across the Estate.

The team price of £1,000 includes breakfast, drinks, lunch and cartridges. Funds are being raised for Scarborough Mountain Rescue and the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust. For further information or an entry form, please email wykehamclayshoot@dawnay.co.uk.



Grouse, geocaching and the next generation

Did you have a heather moorland as a classroom? Danby Common hosts sheep, grouse and also schoolchildren! Brian Sweeney, educational guide, welcomes more than 500 pupils a year through the Danby Moors Environmental Stewardship Scheme. This scheme started several years ago with the support of local farmers (graziers), the Danby Court Leet and the Dawnay Estate. The North York Moors National Park’s Education Service, helped by Natural England funding, takes children to this beautiful area to survey and “geocache”. The Scheme also provides funding to restore the peat, briophytes, sphagnum moss and also the heather vegetation.

We’re also delighted to congratulate Wykeham C.E. Primary School. Their Science Through Multi-Sensory Art project came first in a national competition run by Rolls-Royce, winning them £25,000!



A new dawn at the Downe Arms

Two brothers are hoping to build on the success of Wykeham’s popular venue. New occupiers Phil and Graham Dark are looking to expand the restaurant, bar and hotel’s social banqueting, accommodation and menu choices.

“This Grade II listed building is such a unique spot. It’s so easy to travel to, offering free parking as well as spacious function rooms,” explains Phil. “We’ve already refurbished the superior rooms, improved the WiFi and added luxury touches such as espresso coffee machines.”

The Downe Arms Country Inn is already an extremely popular venue for weddings, functions and also Sunday lunches, and Phil hopes to build on this with a new initiative, ‘Fish on Friday’ which offers delicacies such as tempura prawns and smoked salmon. Just mention the Dawnay Newsletter until 30 April 2017 for a free half bottle of wine with every main course!



A peachy year for Yorkshire trees?

Passports are vital if you’re heading abroad, but also for some plants being imported into the UK. 2017 sees trees from the Prunus family such as cherry, peach, plum and laurel joining the list of plants which will need a plant passport. This is to prevent bacterial disease spreading from Europe. However Wykeham Mature Plants can help.

“All our plants are Yorkshire-grown, so don’t need plant passports,” explains General Manager, Adam Smith. “Our range of trees, conifers and shrubs are guaranteed to be hardy, free of imported diseases and are regularly inspected.”

With deliveries already booked from Manchester to Hull, and Newcastle to Nottingham, Wykeham Mature Plants are looking forward to a busy year. For more advice, call them on 01723 862406 or check out www.wykehammatureplants.co.uk, their recently rebuilt and designed website.



Illuminating changes for campers

Things are looking bright for St Helen’s Caravan Park this coming season. Once again the 240 caravan and 33 camping pitch site has been awarded the AA’s 5 Pennant. Returning guests will also discover that it’s literally become more ‘enlightened’.

“We’re determined to be as environmentally-friendly as possible,” says Manager Andrew Backhouse. “We’re looking to introduce solar lights to our camping fields before the start of the main season, having already converted as many bulbs as possible to LED. By reducing our consumption and re-negotiating our electricity contract we are forecast to save a significant amount of electricity and money over the next three years.” Take a look at the website www.sthelenscaravanpark.co.uk where the new e-booking system enables prospective visitors to quickly book on-line.

