

Putting down roots

The biomass boilers and heating system has just celebrated its second birthday and is happier than ever! Last November the Forestry Department started to supply first thinnings from timber sourced from the Estate.

“It’s proved to be the best woodchip we’ve put through the hoppers,” explains David Barrett, Assistant Agent. “Waiting 18 months for it to dry out was a worthwhile decision.”

Scaling the heights for salmon

As well as fishing for trout and pike at Wykeham Lakes, the Estate owns the upper reaches of the River Esk, Yorkshire’s premier salmon and sea trout river. Wildlife such as kingfishers, otters and the endangered freshwater pearl mussel also call the river home. It flows for 28 miles through the North York Moors National Park into the North Sea via Whitby.

It is a beautiful river, but urgently needs help in improving its environmental balance. This will increase fish stocks and fulfil the river’s full potential. The Estate is working in partnership with the Yorkshire Esk Rivers Trust to remove barriers to fish migration and install fish passes.



The re-planting schemes should keep the boiler in business for years to come.

Douglas Fir plantations are gradually being felled and re-stocked with native species. In Bedale planting is a mix of hardwoods such as oak and beech with a softwood nurse crop.

This is part of a ten-year plan with the Forestry Commission.



For more information about the Trust go to www.yorkshireskriverstrust.org

Photo: “Duck Bridge” a medieval hump-backed pack horse bridge spanning the River Esk near Little Fryup Dale. Listed as an Ancient Monument it was extensively rebuilt in 1717 by George Duck of Danby but is considered to retain important medieval remains.

The bridge bears the Neville family coat of arms, owners of the manor of Danby in the 15th century. It remained



in use for vehicle traffic until 1993 when a ford was built to prevent further damage to the parapet.

“There be dragons...”

Did you know 13 types of dragonflies grace Wykeham Lakes? Surveyors from the Yorkshire Dragonfly Group spotted Emerald Damselflies, Migrant Hawker (pictured), Ruddy Darters and even Emperor Dragonflies last summer! They commented “This is a good tally for Yorkshire,

such a diversity of dragonfly fauna is due to the unpolluted water, shallow margins and a good variety of submergent and emergent vegetation”.

Find out more on: www.yorkshiredragonflies.co.uk



Dawnay News

www.dawnay.co.uk

Welcome to our Summer newsletter

It has been a tense time at Wykeham over the last month or so with assessors for both the Bledisloe Gold Medal and the Tye Trophy striding around the Estate looking very serious and asking rather difficult questions. It was a nice surprise that, after a very nervous wait, the Estate achieved a sort of double. Now for the cricket...

The Viscount Downe

The Dawnay Estates win Gold



The Estate is celebrating being awarded The Royal Agricultural Society of England’s prestigious Bledisloe Gold Medal for 2018. It is presented to the Estate which “has shown outstanding achievement in the successful land management and development of an English agricultural estate”.

The award recognises the Estates’ drive to conserve, diversify and regenerate the environment. The Judges commented “As we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the award, the Royal Agricultural Society of England are delighted to award the Gold Medal to the Dawnay Estates, who have exemplified the high standards of modern rural Estate management.”

The interview by the RASE’s expert panel went on for a somewhat frightening four and a half hours.



During this time the judges were given tours of St Helen’s Caravan Park, the Wykeham Business Centre, Wykeham Mature Plants and the North Yorkshire Water Park. At each stage they insisted on talking to, and asking searching questions of the relevant General Managers. No one part of the Estate won the award, but clearly the Judges were impressed by the whole.

Lord Downe commented, “The Estate is truly honoured to receive the Bledisloe Gold Medal. I hope the award shows that it is possible to diversify a rural estate, producing successful businesses and new jobs, whilst at the same time maintaining and improving the local environment. I pay tribute to all those who live and work on the Estates both at Wykeham and Danby, who have made such success possible.”

Welcome



Catherine Evans MA ACA who joins the Estate as Financial Controller and forms part of the Senior Management Team.

Neil Grimshaw Landscape Transformation Manager at Wykeham Mature Plants. Neil is responsible for managing the newly established landscape planting team.

Farewell

To Ron Pickering, who has worked on the Estate for over 50 years in both the Forestry and Environmental Services departments. Following Ron’s retirement the Estate will be losing knowledge of literally every tree or stand of timber on the Estate, most of which he planted!



Sad News

John Cooper Harrison sadly died on 25th January aged 82.



Born in Danby, John spent 80 years at Slidney Beck Farm raising top quality cattle and Scotch Blackface sheep.

John took over the tenancy in 1969, when his father retired, and was in turn joined by his son Paul in 1976; Applegarth Farm was added in 1987. A well respected farmer and always known for being a voice of reason, John served on the Danby Court Leet for 23 years and was a keen supporter of the Danby Environmental Stewardship Sheme.

A Dales farmer, John loved his life farming on the North York Moors – his family, friends and neighbours were always very important, closely followed by his cattle, sheep and dogs.

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

Forresters Lodge:
www.forresterslodge.com

Wykeham Mature Plants:
www.wykehammatureplants.co.uk

You are receiving this Newsletter as you have previously expressed an interest in The Dawnay Estates.
If you do not wish to receive future copies please email k.shamel@dawnay.co.uk

Riding the crest of a wave

After an outstanding first season in 2017 during which it attracted 7,400 visitors in its 10 weeks of operating, The North Yorkshire Water Park returns even bigger and better for 2018.

A ‘Monkey Dome’ of inflated monkey bars joins the AquaPark “obstacle course”, as well as ‘The Rocker’, a four-person see-saw. Two separate challenge runways mean teams can race each other over a fiendish course of trampolines, slides and wobble boards.

“After only a few months of opening, we were delighted to be Toast of the Coast Awards runners-up in 2017,” says Manager Andrew Backhouse. “This year we hope to see even more families, children’s parties, stag and hen dos. We’re also encouraging local businesses and organisations to try a team-building event with a difference.”

A new fleet of boats allows those too young for the obstacle course a more tranquil way to

take to the water. Guests can captain pedalos in the shape of VW Beetles and sit-in electric miniboots. There is also paddle boarding, kayaking and open water swimming.

With new showers and family changing rooms the AquaPark is open until September 2018.

For details with online booking:
www.northyorkshirewaterpark.co.uk



A safe pair of hands – and another Award!

Wykeham Farms are pleased to be runners up in the East Yorkshire Area Tye Trophy. Presented by The Yorkshire Agricultural Society, the Trophy recognises the contribution a farming business makes towards wildlife conservation and resource protection. Over the last couple of decades, whilst running a commercially viable farming business, Wykeham Farms has retained traditional pasture management techniques to preserve rare grassland flowers, planted over 20 miles of hedgerows, renovated around 16 miles of dry stone walling and planted nearly 50 acres of woodland. Its work with the Ryedale Hawk & Owl Trust means there are 22 inhabited barn owl boxes on the Farm and Estate, and the moorland at Danby continues to support a sustainable number of Golden Plover, Merlin, Curlew and Lapwing.

The 2,400 acres of arable land at Wykeham has been farmed since 1998 by Farmcare, one of Britain’s largest farming businesses, employing David Edwards as Farm Manager. It is under David’s watch that much of this conservation work has been undertaken. Recently Farmcare announced it was withdrawing from operational farming and the Estate is delighted that David has agreed to continue his management of the farm via his own consultancy business. This should ensure that there will be a seamless change and no disruption to the smooth running of Wykeham Farms.



Bill Cowling - President, Yorkshire Agricultural Society & David Edwards – Manager, Wykeham Farms

Charity Clay Shoot raises over £40,000

On a glorious May day the Dawnay Estates held their second Charity Clay Shoot. After a meet and greet in the North Park in front of Wykeham Abbey, 46 teams took to a tour of the Wykeham Estate stopping at seven stands along the way to demonstrate their shooting prowess. Whether the teams performed like Annie Oakley or Elmur Fudd, all enjoyed the champagne reception and delicious buffet lunch back in the Abbey grounds.

The lunch was followed by a superb auction which was the major contributor to the amazing final figure raised of £42,000 – to be divided between St Catherine’s Hospice and The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust. Nicky Grunwell, Fundraiser for St Catherine’s Hospice said “We are thrilled that Dawnay Estates chose to support Saint Catherine’s with this event. It was a truly wonderful day enjoyed by all and we are over the moon that we have received such a fantastic donation.”



Cutting carbon while growing gardens – and winning awards!

In recent years instant gardening with roll-out wildflower meadow mats and ‘plug and play’ outdoor kitchens has soared in popularity. In response, Wykeham Mature Plants are developing an innovative ‘Border in a Box’ idea.

“Our customers love the immediate impact our new planting gives them”, explains General Manager, Adam Smith. “However, many aren’t experienced gardeners and can be uncertain as to which trees and shrubs would be most suitable. Our ‘Pick and Mix’ of six plants from a recommended list for a fixed price means they can buy with confidence.”

“As 90% of our plants are grown in the nursery rather than abroad, we offer a more sustainable option than many suppliers,” adds Adam. “One delivery of six big shrubs or small trees on a pallet further cuts down on the carbon footprint of the gardening project.”

These planting schemes were on display at the Great Yorkshire Show in July and must have impressed the judges as Adam and his team were proud recipients of the Trade Stand Merit Award.



Waste not, want not – Game Sales

The Wykeham shoot has started donating pheasant to a local rural school so that food technology pupils can learn more about Yorkshire’s food chain and reducing the food miles for their pheasant casserole.

Another grateful recipient was Scarborough’s Rainbow Centre. This charity helps the homeless and those in crisis. Trustees’ Chairman, Howard Newton said: “Your donation of pheasant breasts has been a fantastic bonus for the team in the cafe and have been greatly appreciated by our volunteers and by our many clients.”

Would you like to cook this delicacy yourself? Pheasant is sold at Wykeham Village Market every Friday morning between September and February.



A blooming good prospect for a growing business?

The walled garden in Hutton Buscel is the last remnant of the former Manor House which was destroyed by fire in 1814. Over the last few years the Estate has been renovating the surviving walled garden and it is now restored to something of its former glory.

The walled garden, at just over two acres, has been used in the past for grazing, but now it is looking so good it is time for another sympathetic use.

It could make an ideal flower cutting garden, market garden, demonstration garden or even for the rearing of specialist livestock (free range chickens?). The expansive walled garden is south-facing and sheltered and the rental package includes a separate recently refurbished cottage and out buildings that once formed part of the coach house.

Anyone interested should contact the Estate Office (T. 01723 866600) or email k.shamel@dawnay.co.uk for letting details.

