

## Top for people, pooches, pollinators and the planet!

The AA Platinum Award-winning St Helens in the Park caravan and camping site near Scarborough continues to excel. The team won campsites.co.uk Top Dog Award for dog-friendly facilities such as the dog wash and drying station plus the national David Bellamy Pollinator Patch Wildlife Challenge



## Hellos & Goodbyes

Welcome to **Stuart Bennett** who has taken over the role of Butler at Wykeham Abbey

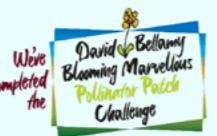
Congratulations to **Danby Estate Game Department** who had an amazing 2024 Grouse season, despite the weather, and welcomed **Dan Marwood** to the team

**Wykeham Estate Game Department** It's goodbye to **Josh Beckett** and congratulations to **Luke Knowles** who has been promoted to Head Keeper

Welcome to **Abi Coates**, full time Accounts Assistant

Goodbye **Sheryl Buttner** and welcome to **Sue Marton** as Estates Administrator

The site's 300 ground mounted solar panels have produced 200,000+ kilowatt hours of energy in 18 months. Excess solar power will now preheat water for the refurbished areas of shower block 4, reducing gas use. "We've done so much over the past two years and have even more planned for 2025," says Manager Simon Roe. "Our first Party in the Park summer celebration saw 1000 guests, staff and their families enjoy activities and an outdoor cinema. We'll repeat this August as well as star-gazing events, Easter fun and more. Follow us on social media to be the first to hear!"



## Planting strong roots

The fungal disease known as ash dieback sadly led to the felling of about eight acres of ash trees amongst the conifers of Bedale Valley near Wykeham in 2023. Last autumn, the Estates Environmental Services team started the mammoth task of replanting the steeply banked area with more than 4,000 hardy saplings.

"The ash trees had been planted in the 1990s and were suffering very badly from the disease," says Property Surveyor Hannah Wright. "Only a few veteran beech and oak trees remained. With help from the Countryside Stewardship Tree Health Restoration Scheme, we are future-proofing this section of woodland by planting a wide variety of broadleaves. These include beech, sessile oak, sycamore, aspen, field maple and hornbeam."

Another feature of the site is the impressive stretch of dry stone walling along the bank top. Once planting is completed, 450 metres of dry stone walling will be repaired.



**The Downe Arms at Wykeham**, the 11 bedroom hotel and restaurant, closed last year for a full refurbishment. Built as a farmhouse in 1656 it became a Coaching Inn in the 1800s. Successive generations altered and adapted the building to meet the needs of thirsty locals with a major extension built in 1977. 2025 will see the renovation of this Grade II listed building, future-proofing the Wykeham Village landmark for the next 50 years.



### Dawnay Estates

The Estate Office, Wykeham, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO13 9QD  
Tel: 01723 866600  
www.dawnay.co.uk



# DAWNAY NEWS

41st Edition | Spring 2025 | dawnay.co.uk

# SHEPHERDING IN A NEW ERA

The 14th century castle of Danby is no stranger to change. Perhaps it's greatest claim to fame is that it was once owned by the 3rd Baron Latimer, husband to Katherine Parr who later became Queen of England as Henry VIII's final wife. The castle was used as a farm, with Sir John Dawnay purchasing it in 1656. The 21st century has seen it adapt once more. Over the last twenty years the Estates teams have worked hard to transform this Scheduled Ancient Monument into a unique, exclusive-use wedding venue.



The Before

The Happily Ever After

The Grade I medieval barn was restored in 2016, with hammer beam roof panels repaired with horse and goat hair daub. The latest renovation has been to convert a little used lambing shed into an accessible wedding reception venue.

This barn will be used to host ceremonies for larger wedding parties to guarantee a magical day, whatever the weather.

**"As our only barn-style wedding venue in the UK, we saw the potential in the Danby Castle's lambing shed from the very start,"**

explains Samantha Gilchrist of the Gilchrist Collection, which includes properties both in the UK and USA. "Couples already love the property's casual, rustic ambience where wellies can be as much a part of the dress code as tiaras.

The photogenic ruins and proximity to Whitby mean it's also a popular choice for Gothic-themed weddings. The new barn was our most exciting project for 2024, and we can't wait to offer this additional space as an option for our guests."

The company has invited couples to help name the new barn through social media. Frontrunners include Parr's Barn, Ever After Barn and Dawnay View. The final decision will be made later this spring.

Find out more at:  
▶ [danbycastlebarn.co.uk](http://danbycastlebarn.co.uk)



The Outside

## Mighty oaks from tiny acorns grow

Revenge Wood between Wykeham and Hutton Buscel, a favourite of dog walkers and locals, is now 25 years old. Planted in 2000 covering 10 acres it features indigenous trees that played a pivotal part in 19th Century shipbuilding. Silver Birch, Wild Cherry, Scots Pine, Hazel, Hawthorn and particularly Oak, grown from acorns collected locally. A total of 10,000 trees were planted in partnership with The Woodland Trust to mark the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. Each new wood was named after a ship in Lord Nelson's fleet and the Revenge was honoured here because a Robert Moorsom from Whitby was her captain.



Then

Now

## Home on the range



The picturesque Estate villages provide good quality, long term and affordable homes that are always in demand. These include a Grade II listed cottage in Ruston. Built in 1833, it had been tenanted by members of the same family for more than 60 years. A change of tenants meant a chance to upgrade and adapt the building to better reflect modern living standards.

"We re-jigged the layout to create a larger kitchen and an outdoor eating area," says Katrina Shamel. "During the work, our team discovered an old coal-fired range. It had been filled with stone and plastered over rather than being moved! We're delighted to let the property, now with an electric oven, to existing Estate tenants who wanted to downsize but remain within the area."

## A laser focus on outdoor fun

It can be a challenge to lure some youngsters away from their screens, but North Yorkshire Water Park may have the solution. A new laser tag course perfect for children's parties and teenage hang-outs opens this summer with bespoke structures for cover and ambushes. It joins the Adventure Wood's existing activities of archery, axe-throwing, a low ropes obstacle course and bushcraft sessions.

"Not everyone wants to wear a wetsuit, so we're keen to expand our land-based activities too,"

explains James Whitehead, Operations Manager.

"We hosted the first ever North Yorkshire Axe Throwing championships last November, breakfast with Santa in December and every week serve a hearty Sunday carvery in our lakeside café. This Easter the Puzzle Room has lots of fresh new games. Plus the 'Bombardment' theme of our Escape Room has proved so popular it returns for another season." As well being open to the public, the Water Park welcomes schools, cadet forces, hen and stag dos plus businesses looking for accessible team building activities.

To book your session, visit: [northyorkshirewaterpark.co.uk](http://northyorkshirewaterpark.co.uk)



## Giving back to the community



With so many unique venues the Estate is always keen to support local fundraising events. Last year the North Yorkshire Water Park supported cancer charity Candlelighters, hosted a 'Mental Elf Run' for Mind and the Dragon Boat Challenge organised by The Rotary Club of Scarborough Cavaliers. The Abbey Park was the venue for The Wykeham Charity Clay Shoot, which raised more than £45,000 for four

local charities - the main beneficiary being Scarborough & Ryedale Mountain Rescue. A further £25,000 was raised for St Catherine's Hospice by reusing the marquee on the following Saturday. This April a Countryside-Classroom-Day will be held in The Abbey Park for 240 Scarborough primary school children. Run by the charity Countryside Learning,

established in 1986 it gives children opportunities to visit country estates and learn about what is involved in their management and meet the people who work there. Countryside Learning's mission is a simple one - to educate, inform and inspire children, parents and teachers, so that they can enjoy and

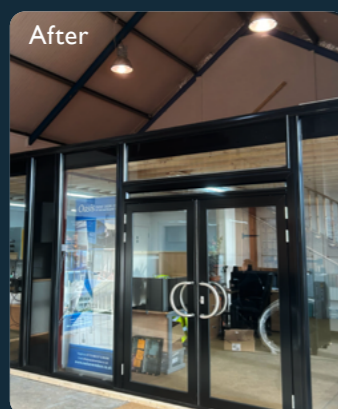
appreciate the countryside while having a greater understanding of the wide range of issues surrounding it. The topics will include ecosystems, "farm to plate", deer management, forestry and game keeping.



## Far-sighted vision pays off



Before



After



**FarfieldWorkspaces**  
Architect's original sketch

2025 sees the 20th anniversary of Farfield Workspaces in Wykeham, as well as the conclusion of three years of renovations including replacing its iconic cedar boarding. The site was originally designed to complement the offices of Wykeham Business Centre by offering workshops and light engineering units. However it has adjusted to suit all manner of businesses and

technological advances, and the alterations continue. "Two more businesses were interested in moving to Farfield but required more space than was there. Fortunately having an in-house maintenance team gives us the flexibility to accommodate requests where we can," says Lettings Manager Katrina Shamel.

"Adding a mezzanine level and restoring another solved the issue."

Long-term Estate tenants Oasis Event Door Ltd [oasiseventdoor.co.uk](http://oasiseventdoor.co.uk), the main UK supplier of Event Doors and Glass/Solid sides have relocated to Unit 4 in Farfield; previously

occupied by a company that created plastic moulds for medical instruments. Unit 7, once designing mobility aids, is the new home of McRay Press. These printers and designers now also own York Bookbinding, and continue to provide graphic design services as well as the traditional artisan craft of both restoring and creating beautiful books.

## Hanging up their aprons

March saw the retirement of Lynn Dees. Lynn has been Housekeeper, caring for and looking after Wykeham Abbey for an incredible 41 years during which time there's been a wedding, a christening, a funeral, the flood in 2011 and 8 butlers! Tim Beak, Butler for the last 16 years, has also recently retired. They will be greatly missed, but we wish them both long and happy retirements.

