



NEWSLETTER

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19th Edition
Spring 2010

Welcome to the Spring newsletter

In these difficult times businesses on the Estate continue to develop and move forward. In some instances the Estate itself is but a small player, in others a major partner in these schemes. The newsletter touches on some of the main things we have been working on in the last few months.

The Viscount Downe

Danby Moors awarded an Environmental Stewardship scheme

It is not often that the Dawnay Estates make the national press, but during the Autumn of 2009 Natural England announced two "important" Higher Level Scheme funding projects, one for the Danby Moors and the other at Ilkley Moor (ba-tat!). A third of the funding is being allocated to Danby, and the grants are being directed at the moorland management (sporting – grouse) and the graziers (farming - sheep), to help retain and develop these wonderful moors for future generations.



Natural England are particularly proud of the fact that a registered common is participating in the scheme, and even more so with involvement of the Danby Court Leet who represent the graziers on behalf of the Lord of the Manor.

The scheme is designed to encourage habitat management and reflects the moors' status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, SPA and SAC (the latter two being EU designations). The particular habitat which is to be improved or safeguarded by the scheme is heather moorland with its lichens and mosses, peat bogs and ground nesting birds such as Merlin and Golden Plover.

There are many benefits to the scheme, apart from the funding, the principle one being the drawing together of graziers, the Danby Court Leet and the Estate in a single management plan; quite an achievement for a group of fiercely independent individuals!

Funding is being provided to assist in ensuring there are adequate number of sheep on the moor, and to this end the Estate has for the first time purchased a flock of swaledale ewes; the appointment of a shepherd to ensure that the flocks are evenly spread over their hefts; improved flock management and the reduction of the levels of tick in the sheep and other related diseases or viruses (-such as louping ill); moorland burning in a sensitive manner; an increase in bracken control and the retention of a (small) percentage of no-burn heather.

In all the scheme and its funding offers a real opportunity for the graziers and keepers to work together in achieving an improvement in the habitat, which will enhance the populations of grouse and other moorland birds, as well as ensure the continuation of moorland flocks grazing over the moor.

Congratulations to Matthew Noble and Kay Lewis on the safe arrival of their baby daughter, Niambh Maisy, an early Christmas present for all the family.



Farewell to David Crossley who has taken early retirement from Wykeham Mature Plants. David worked for Dawnay Estates for almost 30 years and will be missed by everyone at Wykeham.



A full tribute to David appears in the Wykeham Mature Plants Newsletter.

Days out on the Dawnay Estates

The Moors Centre, Danby

Photograph courtesy of Stuart Brown



A day out in Danby would not be complete without a visit to The North York Moors National Park Centre at Danby Lodge. Set in an idyllic location alongside the River Esk, The Moors Centre offers a great day out for all the family. There are some fun interactives and indoor and outdoor play areas – including a climbing wall – for children, with a tea room, arts and crafts gallery and fascinating exhibition about the North York Moors National Park to keep grown-ups entertained.

A lively events programme runs throughout the year at the centre and in the wider National Park with exhibitions, guided walks, children's craft activities and a range of active adventures from bushcraft days to archery. A variety of special events is planned for National Parks' Week (26 July to 1 August).

To find out more look out for the "North York Moors Out and About Guide" or look at www.visitthemoors.co.uk/events.

Danby Castle

Next time you are planning a walk in Danby, try to make time to visit historic Danby Castle. The Castle, partly a ruin, dates back to the early 15th Century and is one of the earliest examples of a fortified but principally domestic castle.

Day walkers are welcome to knock at the Farmhouse door, to gain access to the Castle.



If you are planning ahead you could make an appointment with the Farmhouse tenant, Carolyn Bavister, and she will show you the Court and Jury rooms – still used by the Court Leet today.

The Castle website has details of other events at the Castle. Regular musical events take place either by the fire in the Court rooms or on the lawns in the glorious sunshine! Many couples have chosen Danby Castle as the location for their wedding ceremony and / or celebration.

For more information telephone Mrs Carolyn Bavister on 01287 669219 or look at the website www.danbycastle.com



Point-to-Point

The Charm Park Point-to-Point course, which was established in 1952 is renowned as being one of the most free draining courses in the North of England.

Viewing of the racing is excellent with the benefit of the former railway embankment as a natural grandstand.

There are two meets, the first is in early March, (7 March 2010), for the Derwent Hunt (-the home hunt) and the second on Easter Monday for the Staintondale Hunt. The conditions could not be more contrasting with excellent going in March, but often cold for the spectators, and firm ground in April, the course on occasions having to be watered from the nearby Wykeham Lakes Fishery.

Wykeham Lakes

For most of January there was more ice skating than fishing at Wykeham Lakes!



Several inches of ice lay on the water changing the landscape completely (–it also changed the access road which led to a lorry "adjusting" the boundary wall!) But with Spring just around the corner Wykeham Lakes will offer some excellent fishing in a beautiful location.

Trout Fishing

The seven acre Trout Lake offers top quality fishing for Rainbow, Brown, Blue & Golden trout from 2½ to over 18lb in weight. A full range of tickets are available including 'Catch & Release'. Tuition by a fully qualified GAIA/APGAI instructor is available either on a one-to-one basis or on one of the beginner/ intermediate level courses, held twice monthly from April until September.

Coarse Fishing

Coarse fishing is available on three lakes, each with its own atmosphere. They are stocked with a variety of fish including Carp, Tench, Roach, Perch, Bream, Pike, Chub. Wykeham Lakes offers something for everyone whether you're a pleasure, match or specimen angler.

Tackle & Bait is available on site together with light refreshments; free Tea & Coffee. For more information contact the Fishery Manager, Mike Heelis on 07946 534001

Activities on the Dawnay Estates

The Abbey Shoot, Wykeham

The development of the shooting at Wykeham has moved on apace. Matthew Steadman and his under-keeper, Ian Blacker, have worked unbelievably hard to create a really stunning shoot – or is it two shoots?

The original traditional pheasant shoot is based around Wykeham Abbey, a unique backdrop. The surrounding park and woodland provides the setting for less challenging but enjoyable shooting at a modest cost.

The other half of the shoot is over the high ground and includes three steep valleys, Bedale, Yedmandale and Sawdondale. The drives vary from open grass dales, wooded valley sides with open ground at the gun stands, to shooting in between majestic douglas fir. In many instances the presentation of the birds is spectacular.

Memorable drives include the Spinney (birds flushed from a small spinney and curving back over the guns), the Brow (birds flushed over a wooded brow with a steep valley below) or Yedmandale (high birds flying over the tops of douglas trees requiring a quick response).

One of the features of the last season has been the partridge. Good numbers have been shot throughout the pheasant season, but September and October are exclusively for partridges over the undulating countryside and grass dales.

The social aspects are not ignored with coffee and a welcome from the keeper and host (and sometimes even the Agent!) at the beginning of the day and lunch in the “Old Kitchen” at Wykeham Abbey. This venue is ideal for shoot lunches with its ranges, one of which is lit to provide additional warmth and character, together with the original dressers with pewter ware displays.

Bags vary between 150 and 350 birds and prices are quoted for the day with no overage.

All in all, a recipe for a day’s shooting to remember!



Wykeham Watersports

Wykeham Watersports look ahead at what is hoped to be another busy year, with many activity courses running through 2010.

There are courses in Sailing, Kayaking, Canoeing and Powerboating. There are many RYA Sailing courses running throughout the year ranging from two to five day courses, covering beginners to those with advanced skills - something for every one.



Wykeham Watersports host a great range of development programmes in conjunction with local schools. The fun

continues in the school holidays with youth adventure days when children of all ages have the opportunity to try the range of activities on offer.

When Sam Usher is not developing the business at Wykeham he is busy working with Team Pindar on their project in Bahrain, “Sail Bahrain”. A project which aims to develop sailing and watersports in the country of Bahrain. They recently shipped two Volvo 60 race yachts to Bahrain. The yachts will be used for charters and racing. Sam sails onboard the yacht “Kingdom of Bahrain” as part of the crew and was en route to Dubai when the crew were captured by the Iranian Marines.



We are glad Sam is back safe and sound!

Fishing on the River Esk, Danby

The River Esk at Danby has consistently been one of the best performing migratory fish rivers in England over the last few years. The river is home to brown trout, grayling, sea trout and salmon. It is particularly famous for its sea trout runs in August and September.



Six miles of the river bank are under the care and control of the Danby & District Angling club. The club was formed in 1947 by the 10th Viscount Downe and to this day is run by volunteers on a non-profit making basis. Club Secretary Roger Payn says ‘our chief aim is to provide accessible angling for the local community and visitors to the area.’

Danby & District Angling club do not have a membership, but fishing can be arranged by way of a season (£20) or day (£5) tickets. These can be purchased from the Duke of Wellington pub or Castleton Post office as well as tackle shops throughout Whitby, Middlesbrough and Saltburn.

News from the area

Bring the Countryside into your business



Recently vacated offices at Wykeham Business Centre and workshops at Farfield means there is room for your business to find a home on the Dawnay Estates. For more information contact Katrina Shamel at the Estate Office, telephone no. 01723 866600 or see our website www.dawnay.co.uk

10 years shopping at Wykeham Farmers Market

Wykeham Farmers' Market, now in its 10th year, is the only weekly market in the area. Seasonal favourites starting to appear are Jerusalem Artichokes, Spring lamb and wild sea bass, with hot cross buns and simnel cake just around the corner.

In March the "community stall" will be occupied by Marie Curie Cancer Care publicising their daffodil campaign and on Good Friday the Market is hosting an Easter Egg hunt.

For more details on the Farmers' Market contact Katrina at the Estate Office.

Thank you to the pupils of Wykeham School for braving the snow to sing Carols at our Christmas Market, they made it a very special occasion.



Danby Court Leet commemorates Herbert Tindalls retirement



At the annual Court of the Danby Court Leet, the Lord of the Manor, Lord Downe, thanked Herbert Tindall, who retired as Court Leet Foreman, after 35 years. Herbert decided to step down leaving the Court Leet in good heart and continuing its important work under his replacement foreman, David Tyreman.

The jury, foreman and office holders are appointed annually at the Court and sworn in by the Steward. Herbert Tindall referred to the very long held traditions of the Court Leet and its continuing relevance to the management of Danby Common. He thanked the jurymen (13) for their support and work.

A presentation was made by Lord Downe and David Tyreman, the latter on behalf of the jury.

Danby Beacon – first birthday

The first anniversary of the Danby Beacon took place on 24th October (- the nearest weekend to Trafalgar Day) with a ceremonial lighting of the Beacon by a small group who were prepared to withstand the windswept and cold conditions on Beacon hill.

The celebrations are a reminder that the Beacon can be "hired" for a ceremonial lighting and a booking can be made by contacting Mrs Rudsdale on 01287 660859, or the Estate Office on 01723 866600



WI Celebrations

Lady Downe was delighted to host an afternoon tea at Wykeham Abbey for the Wykeham and Hutton Buscel WI. This was to celebrate the 90th anniversary of their formation by the Hon. Dorothy Dawnay. To mark the occasion a photograph of the inaugural members of the WI was re-enacted outside Wykeham Abbey; Lady Downe and the current members are pictured at the same spot as the original.



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