



DAWNAY ESTATES NEWSLETTER

Second Edition
Autumn 2003

Welcome to 'Dawnay Estates' Autumn Newsletter

An Estate, indeed any business, needs to carefully balance the need for innovation with respect for its culture and traditions. On the former I am proud of the changes taking place around Wykeham, particularly the recent progress with the Nursery business. On the latter it is with great sadness that we heard of David Perry's death. Paul Hutton's address described David more eloquently than I ever could, I will merely add that he had a full life and ploughed "a rare straight furrow".

Viscount Downe

David Perry 1925-2003

David Perry, the farm manager of Wykeham Farms for a long time made a huge impact on the development of the farming business at a time of rapid expansion. He died recently after a short illness.

David Perry was born in the West Midlands and took his agricultural qualifications at Harper Adams College in Shropshire.

Immediately prior to moving to Wykeham as Farm Manager in 1959, he managed the Fressland Research Station at Drayton, near Stratford upon Avon.

At that time, Wykeham Farms extended to about 1,200 acres, with dairy tenants at Swan Hill and Carr Farm, and the grain drying plant at Wykeham Farm, in the centre of the village.

Shortly after the Estate was inherited by 11th Viscount Downe and as tenants on the Estate retired, the acreage held by Wykeham Farm increased by the addition of Ings Bridge and Ings Farm, where a beef unit was established.

Farming north of the village began with taking in Wykeham Grange as an arable unit and East Moor Farm, a dairy holding.

David was appointed a Director of Wykeham Farms Ltd. and in the years that followed the area under his management increased to a total of just over 3,000 acres, with the inclusion of Hill, part of Charm Park, Bedale Grange and Darrells Low Farms.

In December 1968, with Lord Downe, David visited the Farmhand stand at the Smithfield Show in London with a plan to buy a manure spreader. They came away with a commitment to buy a Feedmobile, a mobile farm animal feed compounding plant mounted on the back of a lorry. Thus Yorkshire Contractormix was launched in 1969, with the fleet soon increasing to six vehicles, giving a service to farmers throughout the North and East Ridings. It was David's detailed knowledge of livestock management and ration formulations which gave the company the professional steer needed to persuade livestock farmers of the benefits to be gained by home mixing.

In the mid 1970's he took on the task of draining extensive areas in the south of the Estate, and brought 500 acres into arable production which otherwise stood wet, suitable only for summer grazing. The scheme was sufficiently extensive to justify a small pumping station at its outfall.

It was acknowledged by his peers that for over 20 years David was one of the most dynamic and forward thinking farmers in the district and therefore no surprise that he progressed to become County Chairman on the National Farmers Union.

On his retirement after 33 years at Wykeham, David moved to West Ayton. He enjoyed his membership of the Rotary Club of Scarborough Cavaliers and was elected as president in 1991. He was also the self-appointed "green manager" for the Ayton Bowls Club, where the green is now regarded as one of the best in the area.

Paul Hutton, July 2003.

Welcome

There is a new face at the reception at the Estate Office, Emma Hepples. Emma's main duties will be reception work, assisting Robert Sword with the new Wykeham and Farfield Developments and dealing with property letting.

Lisa Craig has started working in the accounts department one day a week. Lisa will be assisting Eileen Biggins with the inputting and payroll duties. Many of you will know Lisa already as she previously worked at the Downe Arms and lives at Ruston.

We wish Lisa and Emma well in their new posts.

Forthcoming Events

15th November

Butterfly Ball at the Downe Arms. This is quickly becoming a very popular Village Hall fund raising event. Buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Numbers are limited.

Every Friday

Wykeham Farmers Market



– every Friday at the Downe Arms car park. Two new stands have joined the market: cheese, cakes and pastries and flavoured honey

Activities on the Estates

Danby Moors

Peter Snaith, who was previously a keeper on Bransdale and subsequently Swinton Moors has joined the keeping team at Danby. He will take over from Allan Bowes as Head Keeper at the end of the season.

Peter's family have connections with Danby, his father having been born at Clitherbecks Farm and until his recent retirement he was Head Keeper on the adjoining Commondale and Baisdale Moors.

Peter joins the Danby Moors Estate at a key time following a record year for grouse in 2002 and he hopes to carry forward the excellent work that Allan has put into the moor.

David Wilson will continue as Peter's deputy and in due course a third keeper will be employed to follow Allan's retirement.



Wykeham Business Centre and Farfield Workshops

The Dawnay Estates have embarked on two important and exciting new property ventures – Wykeham Business Centre and Farfield Workshops.

The Wykeham Business Centre comprises the conversion of the former Wykeham and Lora Farmbuildings to 9,470 sq ft of offices and Farfield Workshops, a new build scheme, providing 7,960 sq ft of workshops. Both developments will be carried out by the Estate in conjunction with the leading consultants, Rural Solutions of Broughton, who devised the concept of Rural workspace.

The buildings are all to be let, and will offer an exceptionally high specification in terms of information and communication technology, interior design, landscaping and of course easily accessible and free car parking.

The development will offer enhanced employment in a rural area and there will be opportunities for services such as cleaning, catering, child care, landscape management and transport.

The conversion of Wykeham and Lora has already commenced and the work at Farfield will begin later in the autumn.

The project is in part being funded by the European Union and the Yorkshire Regional Government Office.



Wykeham Mature Plants

Wykeham Trees have undergone a number of significant changes over recent months, the first being the change of name. It was felt that the name "Wykeham Trees" did not accurately reflect the products that are offered. The business is moving more and more into supplying mature plant material, whether large trees, shrubs or hedging. The name "Wykeham Mature Plants" was therefore chosen as the new title of the business.

Following the name change the container units have undergone a major overhaul and now supports a huge array of plant material. If you haven't been down to the container units yet, they really are worth a visit. Not only do the range and quality of plants speak for themselves, the setting has a real "wow" factor.

Recently a new face has arrived at Wykeham Mature Plants. We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Adam Smith as Sales Manager. Adam previously worked at Johnsons of Whixley, near York. He is probably among one of the most knowledgeable salesmen in the horticultural industry today. The sale force now comprises David Crossley, Adam Smith and Jonathan Tebb-Roger. The container units are open from 10 a.m. to 2.30 p.m., Monday to Friday and by appointment at other times.



Wykeham Forestry.

Although the British timber trade is in the doldrums, with only firewood and very good quality hardwood achieving a reasonable return, there was good news for the Wykeham Forestry Department.

Two competitions for wood production were entered this year. The first was the Yorkshire and Northumbria Woodland Competition, sponsored by various bodies including the Royal Forestry Society and The Yorkshire Agricultural Society. Three of the Estates Woodlands were entered in the competition; these were the planting on Agricultural Land at the Riggs, the restorative planting at Wykeham Quarry and finally a Compartment of Douglas Fir at Bedale.



Activities on the Estates

Wykeham Forestry continued

It was very pleasing, though slightly galling, to achieve the runner up placing in the latter two classes, with the Douglas at Bedale being particularly admired by the Judges.

The other competition entered was the Timber Disc Competition at the Great Yorkshire show. The timber presentation, aided by the sterling work by Ron, Dave and Steve on the sander, managed to achieve the Reserve John Boddy trophy with a collection of Gold, Silver and Bronze medals. Douglas Fir was again our best piece of timber. The timber produced was a good selection, and it was especially encouraging to do very well with the conifer discs, which after all are our main forestry timber crop.

Wykeham Country Fair

This years Country Fair took place in July. Yet again we were extremely lucky with the weather, with plenty of clear blue sky and sunshine. Everyone enjoyed the many main ring attractions, which included the West Lancashire Dog Display Team and Land of the Prince Bishops Falconry display.

The Dawnay Estate stand saw a flurry of activity with Kate Fenton signing copies of her books on both days. The greenery on the Wykeham Mature Plants section was yet again a real crowd puller.

For many people it is also their first opportunity to take a look at the many activities that take place on a diverse modern country estate. This year the Estate was able to promote the new development at Wykeham and Farfield. This generated a great deal of interest with some of the units already being taken! The displays of Danby Moors gave visitors an insight into the conservation work that takes place on the moorland.

This year saw an even larger entry of Horse Ball Teams, some 14 teams with ten horses making up each team.

The food avenue offered fair goers a diverse range of cuisine ranging from Chinese Noodles to traditional Fish and Chips. As you can imagine, this area became extremely busy at lunch time and even boasted a traditional Punch & Judy show to keep the children (and some adults!) amused whilst eating their lunch.

There was also a new marquee housing the "Made in Yorkshire" products. Stands in this marquee were very popular with crafts such as furniture, jewellery, painted portraits, and glassware to name a few.

Thanks must go to all the stewards and the organisers who put in such a great deal of hard work to make the event run so smoothly.



St. Helens In The Park

What a difference a year makes! This time last year the Caravan Park was under water and the pumps were going strong. The weather this year has been just stunning – and good weather means happy campers.

We have seen few changes on the Park. Angela has moved out of the office and into the shop. She has sold more burgers than McDonalds and done more hot dinners than the Grand! She has been ably assisted by Claire, who together with her husband Paul, have been doing a host of odd jobs on the Park.

The good weather, together with a bit of luck, has brought us a record year with the "Full" sign having to be dusted off on a few occasions. Camping space for tents is in short supply this year, so anybody with a garden of more than half an acre is asked to contact the office for availability!

Many of the guests have come from north of the border, but luckily Ron can translate for us. Robert and Julie cope well with the translation from South and West Yorkshire, and Jane and I guess the rest.



Wykeham Lakes

It has been a difficult year as a strange virus in the latter part of last year closed all the lakes for a couple of months, and the coarse fishing for most of the year. The Carp lake was only opened again at the beginning of August. However, Angus has not stood still. The woodland edges have been trimmed and all the fishing platforms renewed. He has learnt a brand new trick on the Quad bike, and can now drive, spray weeds and talk on a mobile phone, all at the same time. Luckily he has given up smoking otherwise he would have managed a fourth and final trick!!

All the lakes are now up and running, with some excellent catches on the restocked Carp Lake. The shape of the boating lake changes daily with Hanson Aggregates digging for England on the far bank.

Activities on the Estates

Abbots Meadow – A Park restored

The Park returns to the southern boundaries of Wykeham village. Wykeham Mature Plants have moved from “Abbots Meadow” but not before relandscaping the area using plants from their stock. There are now several large parkland clumps and many individual trees gracing the reseeded area. The parkland belt has also been strengthened with additional planting. Neil Barker and Harry Corney have constructed new wrought iron gates and parkland fencing to form a new entrance.



Carriage Driving

Dawnay Estates played host to the regional North Of England Driving Trials in early June. The trials are based on a traditional three day event.

Day one included the dressage element followed by cone driving where the competitors had to race through a series of cones which had precariously balanced balls on top.

On day two, the carriages completed the 19 km marathon section of the trial over Estate tracks south of the A170. The marathon was divided into five sections and the final one at Charm Park show ground was very exciting: the competitors having to negotiate six obstacles against the clock which fully tested the skill and experience of the drivers.

The competitors loved being at Dawnay Estates and said that the course compared favourably with those at Balmoral and Windsor!



Community Projects

Wykeham & Ruston Millennium Project

The Wykeham & Ruston Millennium Project was established to renovate an Ice House and to create a walk linking the two villages.

The Parish Council nominated the project for an ANPA Conservation award which is run by the North Yorkshire Moors Association.

The judges were unanimous in awarding the project first prize, a payment of £200 and a framed certificate. These prizes were presented by the National Park Association at Helmsley.



This is a great feeling of achievement to all of those who worked on the project. Thanks must go to everyone who gave their support with special thanks to Laurence and Elaine Day.

Village Hall Fund

Fundraising for the village hall continues with a very successful Treasure Hunt and BBQ having taken place earlier in the year. Many teams entered on foot, bicycle and car. Congratulations must go to the organisers as this was an extremely well organised and thoroughly researched event. We all look forward to next years challenge!!

Did you know?

Congratulations go to Emma Hardwick (P.A. to Robert Sword). Emma recently married Mr. Philip Welbourn. Philip is a Director at Jennings Computer Supplies in Scarborough. They first met when Philip called into the office at Wykeham to repair Emma's computer. After many site visits to Wykeham by Phil (there was obviously another reason other than computers!!) romance blossomed and we wish them both happiness for their future together.

Many of you who call into the Estate Office on a regular basis will have noticed that Rachel Hall is expecting her first child in September. She is now on maternity leave. Rachel has been working at the Estate Office for 8 years and prior to that worked at the Downe Arms. We wish Rachel and her husband, Simon all the best for the forthcoming birth and sleepless nights.

Congratulations to Angus Young as he recently passed more spraying exams; three of which are quite rare. Angus is now qualified to apply pesticides to water from the bank side and from a boat. He is able to advise lake owners/managers as to the correct pesticide to use and when to apply it. According to the Environment Agency, one quarter of one percent of all fishery owners/managers has any of these qualifications. Angus is now planning to take his examiners exam at the end of the year.

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