

One of a kind

Given how quickly fire can devastate buildings, in the early twentieth century many country homes purchased their own steam fire engines. The engine was used to drive water pumps, while horses were used to haul it into position. Wykeham's Shand Mason engine, complete with headlights and bench seating, is unique in more than just its gold leaf 'WYKEHAM' signwriting.



"There are some 80 Shand Mason Steam Engines in the UK," says steam engine enthusiast Barrie C. Woods. "However, the one at Wykeham is incredibly rare. This is because at some point in the 1920s or 1930s its original steam engine was replaced by a four-cylinder petrol combustion engine."



The search is now on for the steam engine – was it scrapped, used for something else or still around the Estate? We will keep you posted.

Events in 2017/18

Opera @ Wykeham
Saturday 20th January

Books on the Beach
The Old Kitchen, Wykeham Abbey - 11th April

Charity Clay Shoot
Wykeham Abbey – Thursday 24th May

Dragon Boats
Wykeham Watersports – Sunday 10th June



Dawnay News

www.dawnay.co.uk

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter

It is wonderful to see so many people enjoying themselves on the Aquapark. This really is the newest way of getting tired and very wet (and just possibly having a lot of fun in the process!).

The Viscount Downe

AquaPark makes its mark this summer



The exciting new watersports venture was launched at Wykeham Lakes this year and it couldn't have gone more swimmingly.

AquaPark, the first phase of the North Yorkshire Water Park, opened in mid-July with the first inflatable obstacle course on the Yorkshire Coast. Building on the Park's tradition of sailing, windsurfing and dragon boat racing, the AquaPark incorporates climbing walls, blast bags, trampolines, balance bars, rockers and rollers for adventurers to jump, swim and climb on.

"We've had a phenomenal summer at the AquaPark," says Andrew Backhouse, Manager of the North Yorkshire Water Park. "Families have particularly enjoyed the Kaos, the five-metre slide and the Blast bag which propels everyone from children to adults high into the air."

It's not just for daredevils either. "Working with James Whithead's business, Bay Water Sports, we also offer stand up paddle boarding, team building events, sailing, windsurfing, open water swimming and canoeing activities," says Andrew. "Spectators are welcome to just relax by the lakeside and enjoy



the beautiful setting in the heart of the Dawnay Estates. Picnics are encouraged and we've a café offering lattes, cappuccinos, bacon sandwiches and burgers with tasty extras like haggis, black pudding and blue cheese!"

The AquaPark has attracted over 7,400 visitors in its first 10 weeks of opening. In fact it has been so successful that it was shortlisted for the Toast of the Coast Awards which celebrates the best of the Yorkshire Coast. To be among the finalists for "Best Attraction" after being open for less than three months is a testament to its popularity. The AquaPark closed at the end of September and will reopen in the late spring 2018.

The one hour experience includes the provision of all the latest safety equipment (helmets, buoyancy aids and wetsuits). The only requirements are that participants should be able to swim at least 50 metres, be over six years old and more than 1.2 metres tall. Given its popularity, visitors are encouraged to sign up for the latest news and updates and book online at www.northyorkshirewaterpark.co.uk.



Hurrays and farewells

Hurrays

Congratulations to David and Coral Barrett on their wedding, which took place at David's home near Pocklington on a glorious day in June.



Farewells

A fond farewell to Eileen Biggins who has been at the heart of The Estate as Accounts Manager for 21 years, she will be missed.



Robert Sword and Adam Smith presenting Eileen with a farewell gift from The Estate

Inter Estate cricket match won three times in one day

The return leg of the highly contested Guisborough versus Dawnay Estates inter-Estate cricket match was held at Westerdale on Sunday 16th July. The Dawnay Estates fielded a representative team

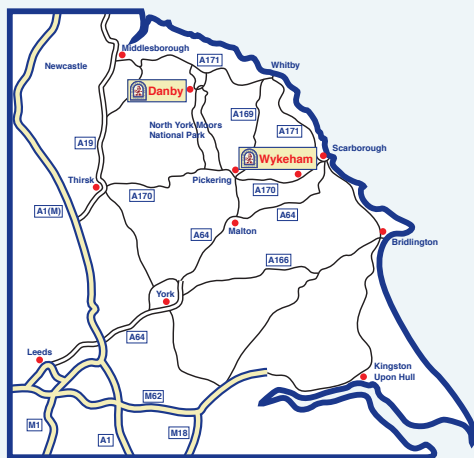
of players, but, with some key figures unable to travel, the bookmakers' offerings were long.

Dawnay Estates won the toss and taking advantage of the high water table, opted to field. Guisborough set off strongly, but some tight bowling from the Danby contingent wrestled things back under control and they finished 181/7.

Dawnay Estates took to the chase with gusto, none more so than opener Jack Kelly, striking a 6 off his first ball. The early wicket of Josh Briggs brought Peter Snaith in to steady the ship and here started a period of ascendancy with Peter, Jack Kelly, Geoff Simpson and

Michael Wearmouth all being required to retire.

Guisborough fought back through not so secret weapon, Tom Brooks and the score was poised at 145/6. The retiring batsmen returned to the crease with overs to spare, but wickets at a premium. Jack and Peter saw off the danger man before succumbing to his father, Nigel. This left Geoff and Michael 20 runs to find with no wickets to spare. To much pinot grigio induced cheering from the travelling support, Geoff and Michael exceeded Guisborough's target – or so it was thought. After some 'creative' accounting, the Dawnay score went one way, Guisborough's the other and the Dawnay batsmen were back to work. Another target came and went and it was only as night closed in, that Geoff Simpson put victory beyond doubt with the Dawnay Estate finishing on 193/8 off the final ball!



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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

Dawnay Sporting – A year to remember

The 2016/2017 season was one of the busiest for many years with a full programme on the grouse moors at Danby and partridges and pheasants at Wykeham. The shot bag at Danby was 2,336 brace, with a record bag of 867 brace on the Glaisdale Moor beat.

Investment continues on both shoots with at Wykeham new drives being “carved” out of the woodland in Beedale, additional rearing sheds and the employment of an apprentice under keeper. The Danby Moors have also benefited with replacing the “Stonegate” timber hurdles with stone butts and extending the Glaisdale Lunch Hut to accommodate a full team of nine guns plus guests. This work has only just been completed due to several delays because of a planning refusal followed by a successful Appeal.

Midway during this season it looks as though the grouse bags could be close to the previous record.

A new initiative for the Wykeham Shoot was promoting a charity shoot in May. Forty teams congregated in front of Wykeham Abbey for coffee and bacon butties, followed by six drives of varying targets. The day concluded in the marquee for a superb lunch and prizes.

As well as being a lot of fun The Estate is proud

the day raised over £26,000 for the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust and Scarborough & Ryedale Mountain Rescue.

The weather was outstanding and the Estate looked beautiful, even glowing! It was such a success that it has been decided to repeat the event in 2018 (24th May) with the main charities being St Catherine’s Hospice and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust.

The Estate was enormously appreciative of the main sponsors, Langleys Solicitors as well as

others to include Lycetts Insurance, McClarrons Insurance, Addplant, Coopers Marques and Hardwick Agricultural Engineers.



Winning the war against black grass

Wykeham Farms farms more than 2,400 acres, including grazing grasslands. One recent challenge has been to control black grass, an invasive weed. It has always been problematic on the dense clay soils of Southern England. Around two years ago it also started increasing rapidly in Northern England, becoming resistant to herbicides. A new solution was called for.

“We took the decision to introduce spring cropping on our heavy clay soils,” says David Edwards, Farm Manager. “We encourage blackgrass to

germinate in the autumn and we also sow a black oat and vetch cover crop. The cover crop roots hold the soil’s surface together allowing us to direct drill wheat or barley the following spring with minimal soil disturbance.”

So far the results of this environmentally friendly weed control technique have been encouraging, especially with spring barley. Wykeham Farms is also exploring leaving land fallow for a year or using cover crops such as clover, oats and radishes to improve soil structure during the fallow year.



Photo above: Black grass in a barley crop. It grows up to 80cm and at very high densities competing with the crop and seriously reducing the yield.



A workhorse - or rather zebra - of a wheelchair

The Estate is always keen to encourage innovative businesses to move to Farfield or the Wykeham Business Centre. One such company is Mybility. When Chris Christou was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, this garden designer and builder was determined to find a wheelchair rugged enough to match his needs. Disappointed by the ‘one size fits all’ response of the mobility sector, Chris founded Mybility in 2011 to adapt Finnish four-wheel drive wheelchairs for users.

“We personalise the wheelchairs with whatever our customers want,” explains Chris. “We’ve added mobile phone chargers, standing seats and even sprayed a wheelchair in rainbow glitter and zebra stripes! It’s so rewarding to see how our wheelchairs can transform people’s lives.”

Londoner Chris moved Mybility to Wykeham a year ago and really enjoys the location. “We didn’t want to be on a faceless industrial estate and the calming rural environment matches our company ethos. Scarborough is also great for sourcing specialist engineering and customised parts.”

For more about Mybility, please take a look at www.mybility.co.uk or call 0330 555 0545.



Just our cup of tea

Wykeham Tearooms, in The Hillyard, just off the A170 in Wykeham is a firm favourite with locals and tourists alike. A leader in gluten-free cakes, the team scrupulously avoid cross-contamination so coeliacs can enjoy a lovely treat. The Tearoom is now building on their reputation by offering outside catering.

“We’ve catered for Malton Motor Club’s Car Rally as well as conferences and meetings at The Wykeham Business Centre. We also provide hot breakfasts, soups and snacks to the Abbey’s shooting parties,” says owner Jayne Tweddell. “We discovered putting sausages inside a bread loaf is the best way to keep them warm on a frosty morning!”

Wykeham Tearooms continue to delight with new ranges of cakes such as raspberry & pistachio, courgette & avocado; as well as gluten-free quiches and delicious afternoon teas. With free Wifi, parking, beautiful gifts and local products such as free-range eggs for sale, it’s the perfect place to pop in.



A real scoop for thriving trees

Autumn is always a busy time for Wykeham Mature Plants, but this year is on track to be one of their best ever. The company has recently invested in a new £50,000 root baller. “It’s like a giant icecream scoop,” explains General Manager, Adam Smith. “The massive U-shaped blade can lift a metric tonne of soil up to 1.2 metres in diameter. This allows us to transport the largest possible root ball to site.”

“The root ball is contained by using hessian and thin ungalvanized wire baskets. As the shrub or tree grows, the hessian rots into the earth. After 18 months the wire eventually rusts away, leaving a strong, healthy plant.”



Rooftop roots at Rudding Park

Wykeham Mature Plants have also been busy carrying out a planting scheme for one of the leading international hotels, Rudding Park near Harrogate. The hotel carries on Harrogate’s spa heritage by using natural waters from its grounds.

The Roof Top Spa and Garden at Rudding Park Spa offers thermotherapy and hydrotherapy, an indoor pool and even a juniper log sauna. As it has views over the mature gardens, the planting scheme had to tie in with the existing tree canopies. Wykeham Mature Plants carefully selected trees and shrubs to complement the terrace’s modern, clean lines of the wood decking and structures.

Spa breaks, Day Spa and evening Starlight Spa packages are available if you would like to see the Rooftop Spa and Garden for yourself. For more information, please take a look at www.ruddingpark.co.uk

