

# RABY

Newsletter: November 2018



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## Lady Davina Barnard Tribute



Lady Barnard, former wife of the late 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Barnard, died in September, aged 87. Born in London in 1931, Lady Davina Cecil was the eldest daughter of the 6<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Exeter and Lady Mary Burghley. She married in 1952 when she was 21, and shortly afterwards the couple moved to Selaby Hall, near Gainford, a property that had long been part of Raby Estates.

She became Lady Barnard in 1964 when 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Barnard succeeded to the title on his father's death. Lady Barnard moved to Barningham soon after their divorce in 1992, where she has lived for the past twenty-five years.

Lady Barnard enjoyed music, walking and gardening. Her eldest daughter Carolyn Vane said "She loved the countryside and especially Teesdale. Some of our happiest memories are going for picnics in Upper Teesdale in the summer holidays".

She was involved in running Raby Gardens for many years and took an interest in the wider Estate and those who lived on it. In the 1980s she and Lord Barnard featured on BBC Gardeners' World showcasing the renovated gardens in the grounds of Raby Castle. Many children of former employees will recall the Christmas party she arranged in the Castle every year.

Whilst living at Selaby she was on the PCC for Staindrop Church and for many years was responsible for church flower arrangements. In addition she helped to organise Flower Festivals both there and at Raby Castle. She was involved in a number of charities in the County and was appointed County Vice President of St John Ambulance Association in 1962 and in 1970s became County President until retirement in 2000.

Her son Harry, the present Lord Barnard said "her priorities were the home, family life, the countryside, and the various causes she supported. She was a modest person who quietly went about her business and always saw the best in others."

# Piercebridge historic finds

Bob Middlemass and Rolfe Mitchinson, both members of the Northern Archaeology Society, started diving on the River Tees 30 years ago where they began finding Roman coins, pots, rings, brooches and all manner of items which collectively created some insight into what life was like at Piercebridge many moons ago.

In 2003 an archaeologist started working with the pair to document their finds and log them with the British Museum. As the finds continued to grow, what was initially considered as "River Rubbish", started to look more like an interesting collection that could be taken more seriously.

Recently the combined 30 year collection, consisting of about 1,500 coins and 3,500 objects was submitted to the Coroner for consideration as Treasure which was confirmed on 30th August 2018. Reading University have also received a research grant through The Leverhulme Trust to study the finds over two years to help tell the story of what life was like in Piercebridge during Roman times. The title of the study is "Bridge over troubled water – ritual or rubbish found in Roman rivers" and Raby Estates is actively involved in supporting their efforts.

One of the several theories is that soldiers at the fort in Piercebridge and travellers crossing the bridge there may have thrown small items into the water as "good luck" charms on their way to war or on their way home which may help explain the number of small items. There is also evidence that the bridge we cross over today is not the only bridge that has stood across the river at Piercebridge.

Whatever the story, it looks like more of it will unfold and help us understand the history of the land and lives of what is now a part of Raby Estates.

*Katrina Appleyard. Operations Manager*



Led by John Wallis as Estate Manager and David Charlton as Project Manager, the refurbishment project will see both large and small properties developed to a high standard using in house labour and outsourced contractors.

Focusing mainly on the long-term residential market, the programme is designed to attract tenants to some of the more remote areas of the Estate by providing high quality accommodation combined with serviceable rents. Improving the energy performance of each property is a key criterion to any refurbishment as the Estate looks to improve its carbon footprint and help reduce heating costs for its tenants.

It is hoped that bringing the empty properties back into use will have knock on benefits to the local schools, pubs and other retail outlets.

*John Wallis. Estate Manager*

## Andrew Lewis retirement



Andrew retired this summer after 37 years of dedicated service to Raby Estates. Joining as Shropshire Farm Manager in 1981, Andrew took over the management of Raby Home Farm in Co Durham in 2001 on the retirement of Peter Boylett. This was of course Foot & Mouth year and with the cattle and deer herds in Raby

Park it could not have been an easy initiation to farming in the north.

In 2003, Andrew was promoted to Estate Manager by the late Lord Barnard and took on responsibility for the management of wider estate interests as well as continuing to supervise the in hand farms in both Shropshire and Co Durham. In 2016 Andrew returned to his role as farm manager and helped to manage the changes to the in hand farming operation that were introduced earlier this year.

*Andrew retired this summer after 37 years of dedicated service to Raby Estates.*

## Raby Estates renovation programme



Following a detailed review of derelict and empty properties across the Durham Estates, Raby has embarked on an ambitious property refurbishment programme aimed at breathing new life into the dale.

Over a 5 year period the Estate aims to develop and renovate numerous properties across both Durham Estates providing additional let accommodation from Piercebridge in the east to Harwood in the west.

Travelling between Shropshire and Co Durham on a weekly basis involved long days, much time away from home and on the road. Few people can have put more effort into their work.

Lord Barnard commented "My father left Raby Estates in good order with a highly successful in hand farming operation. This, in no small part, was due to the efforts of Andrew Lewis and his conscientious approach during his many years at Raby. On behalf of my family and his former colleagues at Raby I wish both Andrew and his wife Natalie a long and happy retirement. I hope they will keep in touch."

*Duncan Peake Chief Executive*



# The Longhorn Cattle Society Visit

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The Longhorn Cattle Society held their AGM in Piercebridge during the weekend of 13 & 14<sup>th</sup> October this year.

They experienced some pretty horrible weather in the form of Storm Callum, but fortunately the worst had passed by the time they made a visit to

Raby Park to see the Estate's Longhorn cattle on the Sunday.

They were welcomed by Lord Barnard and Farm Manager Robert Sullivan. Normally the cattle graze in the Park itself but they were moved to the fields surrounding Home Farm so that society members could see them at close quarters and find out about the herd. While hearing about the cattle they were also joined by Lady Barnard who also takes an active interest.

Here the visitors found out a little about the history of the herd which is one of the oldest still registered. It was established here in 1973 as part of a rare breed project by Peter Boylett the farm manager at the time.

Afterwards everyone headed back to the Castle to enjoy some refreshments. Despite the rather damp weather they enjoyed their visit and thanked Lord and Lady Barnard for the opportunity to view the cattle.

*David Forster*

## New Gamekeeper Tom Wilkinson looks to make his mark

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As I made my way across the moor to check some grit trays with the Estate's new gamekeeper Tom Wilkinson, a thin drizzle blew into our faces. Ahead low cloud scudded across the fellsides, obscuring the tops and blotting out any chance of some sunshine.

It didn't seem to bother Tom though, he seemed perfectly at home in what he points out is fairly typical weather up here.

As you would expect one of the things he likes about the job is being in the outdoors. "I enjoy working on my own initiative and although I do work by myself quite a bit, I enjoy working with other keepers as well as doing things like heather management".

With a beat of almost 8,000 acres there is certainly plenty to keep him busy. "There is no such thing as a typical day.

Yesterday I was doing the pheasant feeders, today we should have been carrying out heather management but the weather is not suitable so I am filling the grit boxes. Some of the work is seasonal, while other jobs such as predator control are ongoing throughout the year".

"It's not just the grouse that benefit from the way we manage these moors because we also create a habitat that is good for other birds as well. Lapwing, Curlew, Snipe and Golden Plover for example do well here, as do Black Grouse."

In fact we have one of the biggest Black Grouse leks in the country here." Leks incidentally are areas of ground where male Black Grouse, usually referred to as "Blackcock" by the keepers, congregate to display to the females in the spring.

With an Uncle who is also a gamekeeper Tom has been involved in shooting since he was a youngster so it is fair to say shooting is something of a passion for him.

Tom tells me he has always wanted to be a gamekeeper and that he served his apprenticeship on another estate before moving to Raby Estates three months ago so that he could manage a beat of his own.

He is really enjoying his work with Raby and is keen to make his mark by increasing grouse densities here. When asked about the future he says he would eventually like to become a head keeper.

*David Forster*

## New volunteers help to develop Castle experience

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Over the summer a team of committed volunteers were tasked to help enable and inspire visitors to discover more about Raby Castle. They were all a part of a new volunteer programme designed to improve and develop the visitor experience throughout the year.

With advice from the Durham Community Action Group and Marie Wisson who runs the Volunteer Programme at Durham Cathedral we began recruiting volunteers in November 2017.

By January 2018 we had nineteen people involved in the programme. Since then volunteer numbers have grown steadily and we currently have forty three people whose commitment and flexibility has been outstanding and has far exceeded our expectations.

The success of this programme is as a direct result of their willingness to give up their time to keep the history of this beautiful Castle alive.

Of course none of this would be possible without our team of Senior Guides who have conducted all of the training, have dealt with routine administration and have also acted as mentors to help volunteers develop their roles.

It has been a great team effort and we hope to build on our success in 2019 by attracting even more volunteer stewards to help in providing a welcoming presence in other areas of the Castle and Coach House.

*Alan McKerchar. Raby Castle Custodian*

## Janet Taylor one of our volunteers tells us about her experiences as a guide



I have always been interested in historic buildings and their contents and when I noticed the advert for a position as a volunteer guide, I saw it as a great opportunity to put my interests to good use and to improve my knowledge of Raby Castle in particular.

All of the new volunteers enjoyed learning about the history of the castle and how the events here fitted into our English history. We were provided with a great deal of training initially and began the season with a file of written information for reference. Of course there will always be more to learn and as the months progressed so did our knowledge. This was always shared with the other volunteers to ensure we all kept up to date.

One aspect of our training was to work together as a team, to support each other and present a welcoming, informative and enjoyable experience for the visitors. I feel I can say on behalf of all the other volunteers that we thoroughly enjoyed it too.

The season, which runs from March to September, has flown by and it has been wonderful working in such a beautiful place.

As volunteers we come from many backgrounds and previous careers and have enjoyed the social aspect of coming together. We always make the most of our few minutes at the start of the day and really enjoy the opportunity to chat over a coffee after the day's work.

*"The season, which runs from March to September, has flown by and it has been wonderful working in such a beautiful place".*

If you think you might enjoy being part of a wonderful team who have regular social gatherings and would enjoy researching and exchanging information about the colourful characters and rich history of the Castle, why not get in touch with Alan McKerchar [custodian@rabycastle.com](mailto:custodian@rabycastle.com) or visit the Raby Castle website [www.rabycastle.com](http://www.rabycastle.com) to find out more.

## Natural Creation temporary art installation



Anyone visiting Low Force over the summer would have been forgiven if they felt they had entered another dimension as they made their way to the falls. In a clearing a few yards from the path a series of human figures watched over you from the trees.

They changed with the light and the moods of the weather like human chameleons. Sometimes blending into the scene, at other times etched with silver and gold, these sentinels of the woodland transformed

their appearance to reflect the moods of the forest.

These highly reflective figures were part of the "Natural Creation" temporary art exhibition by artist Rob Mulholland. The aim of the installation was to celebrate the creative power of nature and bring to life our geological past by highlighting the powerful forces that shape our landscape.

The installation which stood on land owned and managed by Raby Estates was commissioned by the North Pennines AONB Partnership and was supported by both the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council England.

Overall the project has been a great success with large numbers of people coming to see it. Interestingly the figures seemed to mean different things to many people and they interacted with them in various ways. Some felt they were like woodland spirits, others said they reminded them of the 1987 science fiction film *Predator* starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. A few added clothes, took selfies, or grabbed photos of their children holding hands with the figures as if walking with them through an enchanted forest. Others simply stopped off for picnics in their shadow, seemingly content just to be there sharing the scene.



The success of this project mirrors that of another art installation which took place on Raby Estates a mile or so away from here in the autumn of 2016. The "Waterfalls" installation, by renowned artist

Steve Messam, projected high definition slow motion video of the dales iconic waterfalls onto three of the Estate barns over a six night period during October. Just like Natural Creation it proved to be very popular with visitors and generated a great deal of media interest in the area.

If you would like to find out more about these and similar events please visit [www.rabycastle.com](http://www.rabycastle.com)

David Forster



# Raby Shropshire - Summerhouse Wall restoration

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The in house team, Pete Smith and Tim Hess worked alongside a local heritage contractor to repair this Grade II listed garden wall. The wall dates back to 1607 and is one of the few remains of Sir Francis Newport's house at Eyton after its destruction by fire. The wall sits alongside the Banqueting House now called the Summer House and other buildings nearby being part of Eyton on Severn Farm. The team worked hard to complete a good and sympathetic large repair to protect the Estates heritage and this important feature.



Below (L) work in progress and (R) the finished repair.



## The Summerhouse Holiday Let

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People can now stay at the Summer House, which is one of Raby Estates exclusive holiday lets overlooking the river Severn and Wenlock Edge beyond. The guests that have stayed leave excellent feedback and it is a unique get away for many. Please visit [www.ruralretreats.co.uk](http://www.ruralretreats.co.uk) and search for The Summer House.



## Raby Shropshire management changes

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An exciting new management structure has been established on the Raby Shropshire Estate which has seen the management of this important estate being brought in house. Tom Birtles was appointed as Land Agent in July 2018. This is a full-time position and dedicated post. Tom has taken over from consultants

Balfours and is responsible for the leadership, management and stewardship of the Shropshire Estate on behalf of Lord Barnard and will report to Duncan Peake, Raby Estates CEO. Steve Johnson and Carol Grazier, Estate Foreman and Estate Secretary have retired from their posts and the Estate is extremely grateful for their hard work, care and service they have provided to Lord Barnard, the estate and the community.

Tim Hess takes up a new key role as Estate Maintenance – Landscape Lead and Pete Smith similarly has taken up the role of Estate Maintenance – Building Lead. Both these roles will be integral to future success of the estate. Teresa Campbell continues to provide excellent service managing the Summer House holiday let and Sue Swain continues to ensure the estate operational facilities are left spick and span. Finally, a new role is currently being recruited for a Property and Operations Assistant. This will see the team complete at Shropshire for the foreseeable future. Tom Birtles and the team are looking forward to providing brilliant customer service, tackling new challenges and continuing to improve the Shropshire Estate for future generations.

*Tom Birtles Shropshire Land Agent*

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## Raby Shropshire Home Farm and Heal Farms team up

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Both the Raby Estate and Heal Farms are looking forward to a new joint venture farming the Home Farm at Raby Shropshire. Heal Farms will continue to offer a wealth of experience as pioneers in the agricultural industry. Raby Estate will bring care, custodianship and leadership. Together the ambition is to build upon the positive work Andrew Lewis and his team completed throughout his professional tenure and to sustainably produce food, employ local people and look after the environment for the benefit of future generations.

*Tom Birtles Shropshire Land Agent*

## Tenant Farmer Spotlight William Maughan

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Stretching from the wild and windswept moors of Upper Teesdale down to the more gentle countryside around Staindrop and Piercebridge the farms of Teesdale cover a wide range of environments. As a result the Estate's tenant farmers often need to employ a diverse range of farming practices to maximise their operations.

Here William Maughan a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation farmer tells us about his 500 acre family run business based in the quiet hamlet of Morton Tinmouth, near Bolam.

The business is spread over two farms and at its core it has three main enterprises, namely beef cattle, arable and poultry.

Currently around 400 acres of their land is given over to arable farming where they grow oilseed rape, wheat, winter barley and spring beans on a rotational cycle. They produce a small amount of spring barley as well.

William tells us that he doesn't grow any crops to feed the hens, as that's all bought in, however he does feed his spring beans and barley to the cattle. The cattle, which are all heifers, come from dairy farms and are reared from around 4 weeks old. When they are old enough he puts them out to summer grazing to grow and when they are around 21 months they are sold.

Originally the farm relied on beef cattle and arable, but in 1999 the family decided to diversify further and became involved in free range egg production.

He currently has 14,000 Bovan Brown hens, laying around 12,500 eggs per day at peak times. Like many businesses he has concerns about Brexit and how it may affect the business. The uncertainty he says makes it hard to plan too far ahead, but that said they are currently in the process of building a new shed which will increase the numbers of hens to 30,000. This should be ready by January 2019 and will increase production to around 27,000 eggs per day.

William tells us that animal welfare has always been a high priority and they have always made sure they exceeded the Freedom Foods standards set by the RSPCA farm assurance scheme. As a result of this ethos they were approached by the Happy Egg Company in 2009 to work with them.

Being free range the hens have plenty of space containing natural cover such as trees and bushes where they can scratch about and forage, take a dust bath, stretch their wings, or just perch out of the sun. All this makes for calmer happier birds, which is reflected in the quality of their eggs.

Such an approach meant that in 2017 William and his father David were awarded the Free Range Egg Producer of the Year Award by the British Free Range Egg Producers Association. The reasons cited were good bio-security and an appetite to innovate, along with strong participation in promoting farming more widely.

The eggs from William's farm can now be found in all of the major supermarkets and as each one is stamped with a unique number it can actually be traced back to the farm it came from. You can check this by heading to the Happy Egg Co website and placing the code in their happy egg farm search. Perhaps you could try it and see if you have one of William's hard working hens to thank for your egg today.

*David Forster*

## Raby Estate partners with Natural England

In early 2018 the Estate and Natural England started work on a collaborative 25 year Moorland Management Plan which will cover the Upper Teesdale and Langleydale Fells.

Managed by the Estate's tenant farmers and gamekeepers, the plan will ensure the unique and diverse wildlife is maintained alongside the running of profitable businesses which sustain the local community. As well as the area's national significance for

nature conservation and distinctive landscape, the Estate has wider environmental, social and economic importance including its role in water catchments and flow preventions strategies, as a carbon store and as a recreational and tourism resource.

The land managed by the Estate and its tenant farmers in Upper Teesdale makes up a considerable part of the Upper Teesdale Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). In addition to the SSSI designation, the land is part of the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and forms part of two European protected sites, the North Pennine Moors Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Moor House Upper Teesdale Special Area of Conservation (SAC).



Building on existing positive upland management established through historical land management, stewardship agreements and through a close and cooperative working relationship, both parties have agreed several shared objectives including;

- Maintain moorland habitats that are in good condition and restore those which are not
- Support sustainable sheep farming businesses
- Store carbon in peat bogs
- Encourage Hen Harriers to nest on the site by maintaining & enhancing suitable habitats and breeding conditions
- Work with natural processes to manage downstream flood risk by slowing water movement on fells and provide clean drinking water by preventing peat erosion
- Create a viable, commercial red grouse population capable of supporting the Teesdale economy and funding management carried out by the Estate
- Maintain and increase populations of breeding birds and in particular breeding wader and black grouse populations.

The overall condition of the special habitats and species that currently thrive in Upper Teesdale will be enhanced together with sustaining a successful grouse moor enterprise, upland sheep farming businesses and supporting the local community.

*John Wallis. Estate Manager*



# Climb of Life



Each year a group of businesses from across the north of England participate in the Climb of Life to raise funds for the Institute of Cancer Research. One third of us will be touched by cancer in our lifetime and this annual event involves teams from businesses located across the north of England ascending Lakeland's highest mountains. Once again this year a team of intrepid hikers from Raby Estates was proud to take part in this "Human Mountain Endeavour".

***This year's event raised £103,000 for ICR***

The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) is a charitable academic working body based at the Royal Marsden Hospital. ICR employs over 300 scientists and has taken more drugs into clinical trials in the last decade than any other organisation worldwide. The event has raised more than £1.5 million for the Institute and other charities over the past 31 years.

This year the Raby Estates Team took on the Newlands Round near Keswick. Fortunately, the weather was kind to us once again this year and apart from a short shower at lunchtime it remained dry all day. Our team of 18 Raby staff and friends plus



assorted canines set off from Little Town in the Newlands Valley just south of Keswick on the Friday morning. From there we climbed Maiden Moor and High Spy before the long slog up onto Dale Head, the highest point on our trek. From there we headed across to Hindscarth and then onto Robinson before the steep descent back down into the Newlands Valley.

This year's event raised £103,000 overall for ICR and I am pleased to confirm that Raby made one of the largest single team contributions of £5,000.

Special thanks go to colleagues, friends and businesses who supported us through their generous donations and of course to those who took part in the walk – Linda Alderson, Nick and Katrina Appleyard, Lord Barnard, Tom Birtles, Philip Dent, David and Moira Forster, Joanne Hart, Andrew Hyslop, Alan McKerchar, Howie Milby, Catherine and Duncan Peake, Adrian Spier, James Towler, Geoff Turnbull and Will Witchell.

If you would like to support us with a donation please visit:  
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rabyestatesclimboflifeteam>

*Duncan Peake. Chief Executive*

## High Force News



We are delighted to have taken the High Force Hotel under the management of the Raby Estates Leisure and Tourism Department. The hotel is the perfect stopping place after a fantastic autumn walk to High Force Waterfall and we are thrilled to be meeting so many happy visitors.



We are delighted to welcome new Managers Andrew Lindsey and George Dunn, who as well as being experienced hoteliers are big fans of Upper Teesdale.

Both are originally from the North East and were keen to move closer to home and live in such beautiful surroundings with their dog Toby.

The hotel team are looking forward to a busy Christmas period and a minor refurb is underway ahead of welcoming their Christmas guests.

*Claire Jones. Head of Leisure & Tourism*

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# Christmas Events

## Christmas Craft Workshops

Our Christmas craft workshops will run on selected dates throughout December and must be booked in advance. Classes include festive door garlands, mantelpiece garlands, wreath making and willow reindeer, and are run by local, expert tutors. Your session will start with learning the skills and techniques needed to make these beautiful decorative items and gifts, before using your new-found knowledge and creativity to let your imagination run free. All workshops include tea or coffee refreshments and mince pies.

## Visit Father Christmas



Father Christmas will be returning to his fireside chair in the Castle's Grand Entrance Hall throughout December to entertain children with his fun stories and songs. Gather round the fire for a magical experience and soak up the festive atmosphere

in this remarkable setting, which will be beautifully decorated for Christmas. Father Christmas is looking forward to meeting everyone and he will have a special personalised present for each child. Tickets for this Father Christmas experience include: a visit to see Father Christmas in Raby Castle's Grand Entrance Hall, an invitation from Father Christmas and a personalised gift, plus entrance for up to two accompanying adults. New for this year, you can also enjoy a delicious breakfast of warm fluffy pancakes and a selection of tasty toppings for children to choose themselves, served with a hot chocolate or a fresh apple or orange juice before meeting Father Christmas, or afternoon tea of sandwiches accompanied by a selection of Mrs Claus' homemade treats afterwards.

Father Christmas will also be visiting High Force each weekend in December. There's no need to book so do just pop in and see him if you're passing.

## Afternoon tea throughout December

New for this year - bring friends or your whole office party to enjoy an indulgent festive afternoon tea in Raby Castle's Grand Entrance Hall which will be beautifully decorated for the festive season with a roaring fire and huge Christmas tree. You will be served a delicious selection of sandwiches, homemade cakes, scones and cream with freshly brewed tea in this truly magnificent setting. On the day there will be the option to include a glass or two of something bubbly to go with your tea too! Once you have enjoyed your afternoon tea, there will be an opportunity to glimpse into rooms decorated as they would have been in days gone by ready for family and friends to gather for Christmas. The Grand Entrance Hall will be set out with tables for 10 during these special events providing a perfect opportunity to join together with family, friends and colleagues for a unique festive celebration. We are currently offering selected dates through December – Friday 7th December, Thursday 13th December and Thursday 20th December but should you have a group or corporate enquiry for a date not currently on sale, do please call us on 01833 660202 and we would be delighted to help.

## Christmas Market 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December



Join us for our second Christmas shopping event on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th December from 10am to 4pm when we will be holding our Festive Market. Bring the family to meet Father Christmas' reindeer, Elvis the cheeky Christmas pony and explore our indoor Winter Wonderland and festive themed trail. The Market will be packed with seasonal produce and presents for all the family. This is a perfect opportunity to buy stocking fillers, delicious food and drink for your festive guests and to source unusual gifts for friends and family. Warm your hands on a cup of mulled wine as you browse and take a break in our Tearooms where refreshments will be served throughout the weekend.

## Children's Christmas activities, Raby Castle and High Force

Situated in the Coachyard at the Castle there will be a Winter Wonderland complete with a Christmas themed trail, children's arts and crafts and a wooden chalet where you can purchase seasonal hot drinks and food. High Force will also be running its own trail and you can visit the High Force Hotel for Christmas themed children's arts and crafts. Open daily.

## Christmas Tree Sales Castle, High Force and Shropshire

Throughout December Christmas trees, grown locally on the Raby Estate, will be on sale along at Raby Castle, High Force and in Shropshire, with a selection of handmade wreaths and decorative foliage. Pick your own tree from an impressive selection of Nordman Fir and Norway Spruce. At the Castle this year, Elvis the cheeky Shetland pony will also be on hand to help deliver your Christmas trees to your car.

For more details on our opening times, about any of our events and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.rabycastle.com](http://www.rabycastle.com)

*Nicky Witchell. Events & Marketing*

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