

A photograph of Raby Castle, a large stone building with multiple towers and battlements, situated on a hill. The castle is reflected in a body of water in the foreground. The sky is a mix of purple, pink, and orange, suggesting sunset or sunrise. Tree branches with green leaves frame the top and sides of the image.

RABY

Autumn 2021

Developments | Buildings | Farming | Forestry | Land Management | Leisure

RABY

CASTLE

An aerial photograph of Raby Castle, a large stone fortress with multiple towers and battlements, situated on a small island in a body of water. The castle is surrounded by lush green fields and a dense forest in the background. The lighting suggests late afternoon or early morning, with warm golden light reflecting off the water and the castle's stone walls. A small flag is visible on one of the towers.

The Rising

Work starts on ambitious development plans at Raby Castle.

Raby Castle, which has stood as a landmark within County Durham for 700 years, has announced the full extent of its significant investment to enhance the visitor experience of the Castle, Park and Gardens, securing it as an important resource for the local community.

The ambitious plans for a two-year major development programme, which were passed by Durham County Council in December last year, will restore and preserve historic buildings within the park and gardens, some of which have been without purpose for decades.

The development, which has been over three years in the planning, will also support an enhanced visitor journey for Raby Castle, Park and Gardens – providing contemporary spaces for enjoyment but also creating new vistas to the castle within a hub of activity.

The dynamic scheme, known as The Rising, will re-purpose heritage buildings as well as introduce new structures to provide stylish events and exhibition spaces, retail and dining experiences and a visitor information hub – which will all be available without having to pay an entry fee.

Newly designed walled gardens, soft landscaping, and a new entrance car park will reposition Raby Castle, Park and Gardens as a historical and cultural asset for local communities to be proud of.

The first phase of The Rising scheme will also see the design and build of a bespoke children's adventure play area to the north of the castle, on the site of the present Christmas tree plantation. The playground attraction, planned to be open for Easter 2022 will also include a refreshment kiosk with a stargazing deck on the roof, perched amongst the trees.

Lord Barnard, whose family home is Raby Castle, has been determined, since his tenure began in 2016, to make the historic landmark an enjoyable and accessible haven for local people, as well as those visiting the county nationally and internationally.

"The feeling was that Raby Castle and Park has been a visitor attraction for a long time and visitors even since the 18th Century have come here, but somehow it seemed to me that Raby was still very much under the radar, and it has a huge amount to share."



"One of the first things we did was change the paywall, so visitors could enjoy the facilities as well as part of the castle grounds without having to buy a ticket, which felt to us like a much more welcoming experience."

"So, our motivation for this scheme is to really open up the castle and the estate to a great many more people to enjoy. Raby Castle is the flagship of the Dale and we wanted to create something that would make people really proud, where they can bring their friends and family and enjoy everything we have to offer," said Lord Barnard.

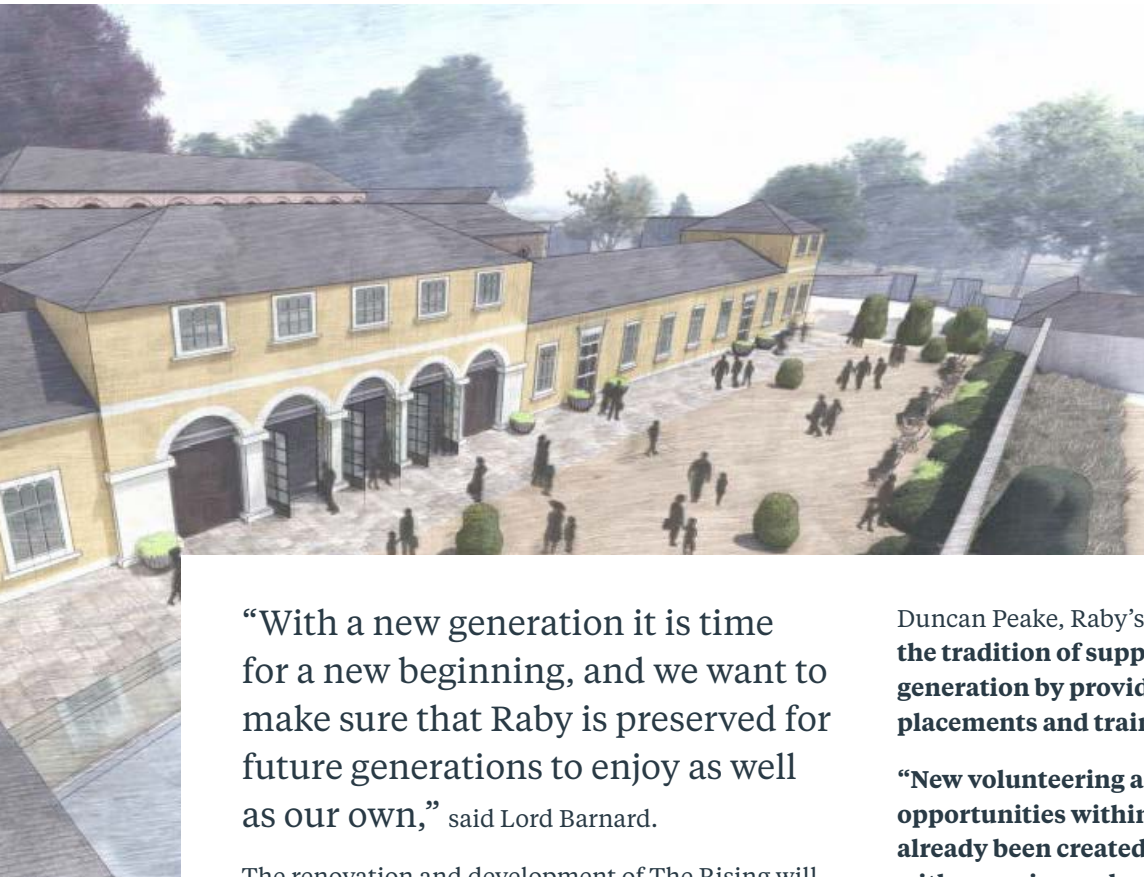
The Rising aims to engage, inform and inspire through providing visitors with new and potentially unexpected experiences. From the point at which a visitor leaves the new car park, they will be guided naturally towards a hub of activity.

"So, the new Vinery café and restaurant will provide what we hope will be an attractive place to enjoy good food with a stunning view of the castle in the foreground, before taking a stroll through the new Duchess Walk – and all without having to pay for castle entry."



Spotlight

The Rising



“With a new generation it is time for a new beginning, and we want to make sure that Raby is preserved for future generations to enjoy as well as our own,” said Lord Barnard.

The renovation and development of The Rising will be an important two-year phase of a progressive five-year business plan – bringing together a programme of conservation, restoration, repair and upgrades to historic buildings such as Gainford Hall, Raby Castle Park & Gardens, Unthank, Spring Hill Cottage, The Scar Farm, Bowlees Farm, Beck Foot Farm and Hilton Hall.

“It is a huge project because of the number of beautiful and significant buildings within the development – we couldn’t just have picked off bits and left the rest, because these historic buildings would just have decayed beyond repair.

“I have memories of these buildings from my childhood, such as heaving bales of hay into the Dutch Barn when I was working on the farm during the summer, but really these buildings haven’t had a lot of use for 50 years. It’s really time to bring them back to life for a wider audience to enjoy,” said Lord Barnard.

A fundamental strand of the renovation project is a commitment to greater engagement with local communities. Training and community educational programmes, as well as social and charitable events will continue to be supported.

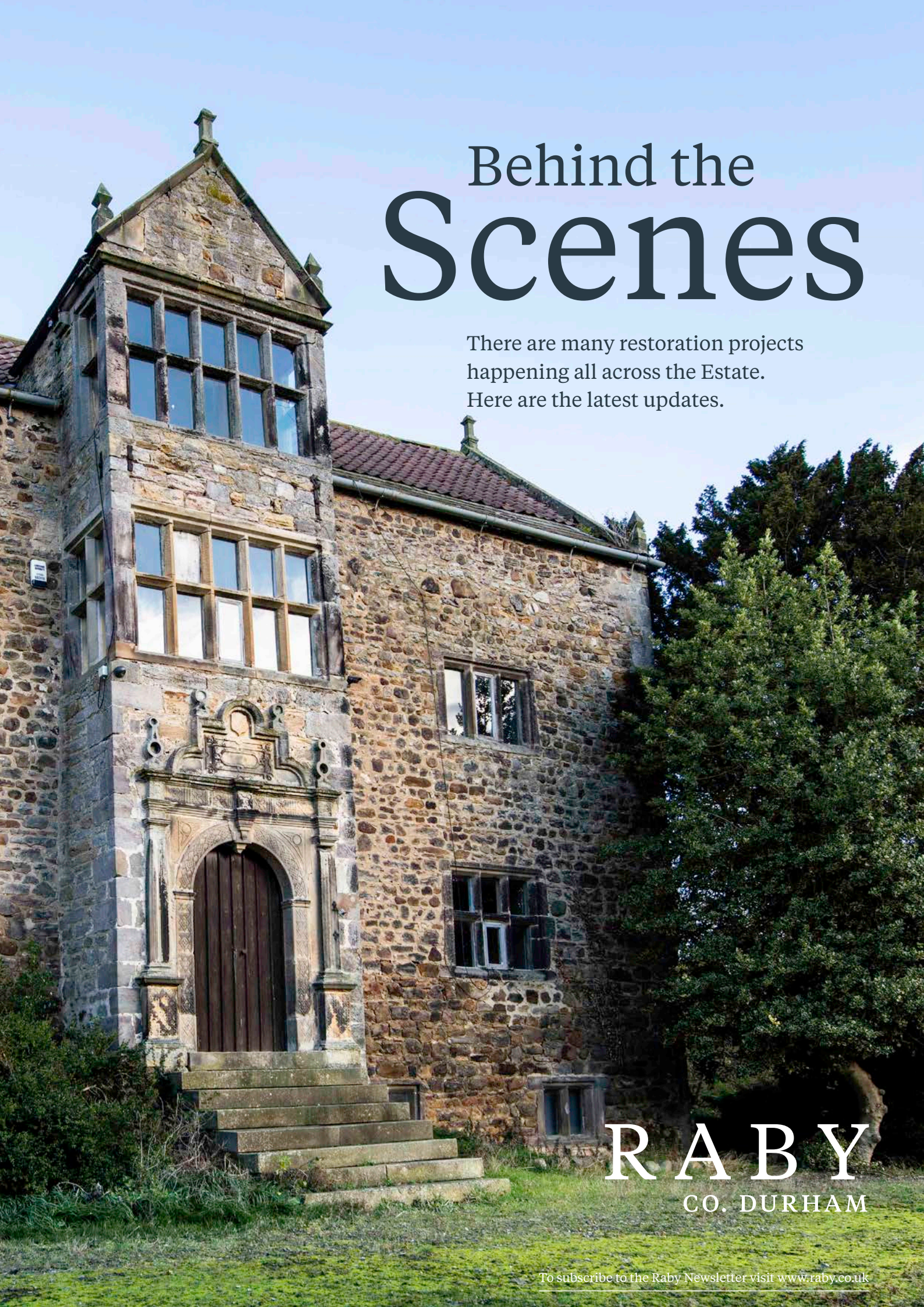
Duncan Peake, Raby’s CEO said, **“We will continue the tradition of supporting the younger generation by providing apprenticeships, placements and training programmes.**

“New volunteering and work experience opportunities within Raby Estate itself have already been created and external relationships with agencies such as Durham County Council, Visit Co Durham, Historic England and the North Pennines AONBs will be fostered to ensure Raby continues to support its local communities.”

“This is a new era for Raby Castle, Park and Gardens allied not only to the opportunities presented by the introduction of high-quality new housing in Staindrop and Gainford, but also to a stated ambition by Raby Estates to greatly increase visitor engagement with the castle and gardens, heightening awareness and understanding of the heritage building and appreciating its value as a vital cultural landmark.

“While this development plan includes the creation of new revenue streams and the expansion of existing ones, helping to support the up-keep of the listed buildings and the Registered Park, it is also driven by the celebration of the intrinsic character and uniqueness that is Raby and we hope the community will be proud of the castle and everything it has to offer,” said Duncan.

Phase one of The Rising development programme will begin later this year, led by the senior development team and the appointment of a project manager to strategically deliver the build, which is due to be completed in 2023.



Behind the Scenes

There are many restoration projects happening all across the Estate. Here are the latest updates.

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To subscribe to the Raby Newsletter visit www.raby.co.uk



Gainford Hall

Our Raby team are hard at work at Gainford Hall undertaking vital repairs to restore the Elizabethan manor and its beautiful Dovecote. The Hall is currently on Historic England's Heritage-at-risk register and hasn't seen any major restoration for over 100 years. Its story stretches all the way back to the early 1600s when it was originally built for the Vicar of Gainford, Reverend John Cradock. We want to save this remarkable building and return it to its former glory so it can be enjoyed as a residential property by future generations.

The restoration project is being overseen by our Buildings Manager Phillip Dent, Maintenance Manager Michael Bennett and our experienced team who have been undertaking the ongoing repairs which include re-roofing, chimney repairs and leadwork. There is a huge task ahead in replacing and restoring all of the lead windows and our latest apprentices Jack Addison and Daniel McCauley have been learning the trade and proving invaluable with stonework and joinery repairs. This project seeks to maintain as many of the Hall's original features as possible and we are committed to using local suppliers including C.S Scaffolders and Middleton Forge.

These important renovations for Gainford Hall are due to be completed in early 2022 and Savills are now marketing the property as a residential let. We hope this future use will secure tenants who will take pride in maintaining this historic building and we believe a residential use will create minimal disturbance for neighbours, with little intervention to the historic building itself. We are also hoping to convert the outer farm buildings to employment use which will bring more jobs to the area.

For more information contact Katie Tyson
katie.tyson@savills.com or call 01904 617800

Duncan Peake, Chief Executive



Hilton Hall

The Raby Building Projects Team have begun to embark on the refurbishment of Hilton Hall. Hilton Hall is located in the Hamlet of Hilton and is a Grade 2* Listed Building on the national list of historic and architecturally important buildings.

During the investigative works the team have uncovered historic features of the former chapel of St Catherine, a chantry to Staindrop Church. We have worked closely with Durham County Council and Historic England to make sure all works are carried out to retain the historical importance and features of the Hall.

The Hall will become part of Raby Estates' residential let portfolio and will comprise of 4 bedrooms with 2 en-suites, large kitchen and living room with original decorative features. Work has also begun to carefully restore the ceiling mouldings throughout the Hall, replacing areas that have been damaged over the history of the Hall. The Projects Team are to sympathetically restore the property with careful thought and vital input on design features and layouts from Lord and Lady Barnard. The project is expected to be completed in Summer 2022.

Karl Hankey, Project Manager





Unthank

Unthank has been progressing steadily since work started in May 2021. The structural work has taken longer than expected due to the northern elevation being rebuilt from the ground up. This is to ensure the property will stand the test of time. All structural work has now been completed and we are moving onto Phase 2 of the project.

The main house roof has now been renewed and the slating is well under way to make Unthank water-tight once again. The next phase will be to install the new timber windows and doors, in keeping with the traditional features of the Upper Teesdale properties. This will be ready for the winter months and internal first and second fix will also be completed in this time.

The projects team are incorporating under floor heating to the ground floor as well as a large open plan kitchen/dining room in the existing Byre. We are expecting to deliver the project on time for Spring 2022 when Unthank will be once again ready for rental.

Karl Hankey, Project Manager



R A B Y

Regenerative Farming

With an ever-changing market and the political and legislative situations we are operating in, the team across the Raby operational and contract farmland are adapting our farming approach to improve the flexibility of our operation.



We are extremely pleased to welcome Philip Vickers as our directly employed Farm Manager for the Durham in-hand farm. Philip brings with him a wealth of knowledge regarding the regenerative and circular farming approach. The skills of Robert Sullivan, our former Farm Consultant are still being put to good use and he is a very valuable support to the team.

The key objective to our farming approach is to reduce our reliance on external factors, reduce the risks around the business and make the farming business more robust to hopefully smooth external factors outside our control. While doing this we must ensure the farms remain profitable, provide wholesome top quality food products and that we farm in a manner which doesn't adversely affect our environment but improves it.

There is no set definition of regenerative agriculture but stripped back, it is any form of farming – that is, the production of food or fibre – which at the same time improves the environment. Regenerative farmers typically try to disturb the soil as little as possible: forgoing tilling, which disturbs the complex network of worm-holes, fungal hyphae and a labyrinth of microscopic air pockets, and avoiding heavy doses of fertiliser or sprays.

Most advocates grow a diverse range of crops, often at the same time, and believe that grazing animals are essential for improving soil health.

To help smooth the transition, the use of Mid-Tier countryside stewardship scheme options such as AB15 and AB9 have been utilised on less profitable areas of the farm. The benefits of these cover crops are already being seen in the soil health. Around 11% of the farm now has environmental crops growing on it. Cover crops are playing a key part in the process in addition to the investment in different seed drills. Over 3000 metres of hedgerow gaps have been filled and an application to become a sustainable pilot farm has been submitted.

Through our journey so far, the key messages have been to adopt an approach which best suits the farm and fields, there is no 'one size fits all' to this methodology. Detailed knowledge is paramount to decision making and measuring crop profitability as a priority to yield is key. One of our most important lessons has been adaptability which is paramount; a lot of what is trialled will not work and often best laid plans need changing at the last minute.



Finally, knowledge sharing is very important to us all. We welcome input from those interested in this change and if anyone would like to seek further information or share ideas, we would be interested to hear from you.

Tom Birtles, Land Agent Shropshire

Competition-winning Cattle



Our Longhorn Cattle Herd recently achieved some fantastic awards at the Northern Longhorn Society AGM this year. Our Raby Nour winning a double whammy with best Senior Cow and Home Bred Cow, and Raby Shelly collecting the prize for Senior Heifer. Raby Estates were also fortunate to win the Large Herd competition too.



R A B Y

Forestry

Christmas Trees

Spotlight

A Raby Christmas Tree



This year we plan to offer a recycling service in January, by which trees purchased from the Estate can be returned for chipping to be used on the paths or as a mulch.

As the nights draw in and the autumn colours begin to give way to winter, thoughts turn towards Christmas and for the forestry team, Christmas trees.

The tradition of bringing a tree into the home for the festive period started in 16th Century Germany, however in Britain it became fashionable in the mid 1840s when Queen Victoria & Prince Albert were pictured with their children around a decorated Christmas tree. Decorations may have moved on from candles and treats to the glass baubles and LED lights of today, but for many of us Christmas is not the same without a real tree.

Here at Raby, we grow 5 species of Christmas tree. In recent years Nordman fir has become the most popular choice with its dense green foliage and excellent needle retention. Fraser fir offers a more compact tree where space in the home is more limited but still with great needle holding ability. Norway spruce, seen by many as a traditional Christmas tree, offers a cost-effective option with trees sheared to give a well-shaped, bushy appearance and the smell many of us associate with a good, fresh tree. We also grow a small number of noble fir and blue spruce, both of which offer something a little different, with a blue-green tinge to the foliage.

Whilst the Christmas tree harvesting will get underway in late November, as we present trees for the Christmas shop and to decorate Raby Castle and the gardens trail, the work to grow these trees began several years ago. It can take 8-12 years to grow a good quality tree during which time regular weeding, pruning and shearing is required. The trees are typically 20-40cm in height when planted and can be 4-14 feet in height when cut, offering a significant choice for our customers, to find a tree that will fit in most homes or gardens. Having a wide range of trees for people to select adds to the overall Christmas experience and it is great to see so many customers return year on year to choose their tree, often making it a day out with family and friends.



This year we plan to offer a recycling service in January, by which trees purchased from the Estate can be returned for chipping to be used on the paths or as a mulch. Whilst we are looking forward to the buzz of the Christmas period, we are also thinking ahead to the new year when we will begin to prepare the plantations and plant new stock to start the cycle once again.

Geoff Turnbull, Head Forester

A wide-angle photograph of a vast heathland covered in blooming purple heather. The field stretches towards rolling hills in the distance under a heavy, overcast sky. The text is overlaid on the top left and bottom center of the image.

RABY
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Heather & Bracken Harvest

Creating Peat Free Compost

Vegetation management on moorland has occurred for generations; there are three principal reasons for this:

Cutting and burning rejuvenates the plant species promoting young, succulent growth which benefits the species and livestock that feed on it

Reducing the amount of fuel load on the moor means that any wildfire will be lower in severity and much easier to bring under control and extinguish

Many upland breeding bird species favour a shorter vegetation cover

In the latter half of the 20th century, much of England's uplands were designated SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) status because of the landscape and species they held. With such designations comes significant regulation that we must conform with. This regulation is governed by Natural England and Raby work closely with them on a regular and continued basis to ensure a continual drive towards favourable status across the upland Estate. Raby also holds a number of environmental stewardship agreements that incorporate management prescriptions that aim to ensure a high standard of management, catering for the needs of the complex plethora of upland stakeholders and crucially nature and the landscape itself.

Heather burning was once a widespread practice, in recent years rotational burning on areas of blanket bog (moorland where the underlying peat is over 40cm deep) is no longer allowed, although there is a licensing process available in certain circumstances. Restoration burning on dry heath is still permitted and practised. This is done by a skilled team of experienced staff. A cool, quick burn method is used to ensure that it is only ever the heather foliage that is burnt, the underlying peat is never burnt or disturbed.

To manage areas of heather dominated blanket bog in the absence of burning the Estate, with consent from Natural England utilise a method of restoration cutting. The heather is cut with a tractor and flail. Once cut the heather then starts to regrow from the rootstock but in the interim other dwarf shrub species and sphagnum mosses start to get a foothold creating a mosaic of plant species.

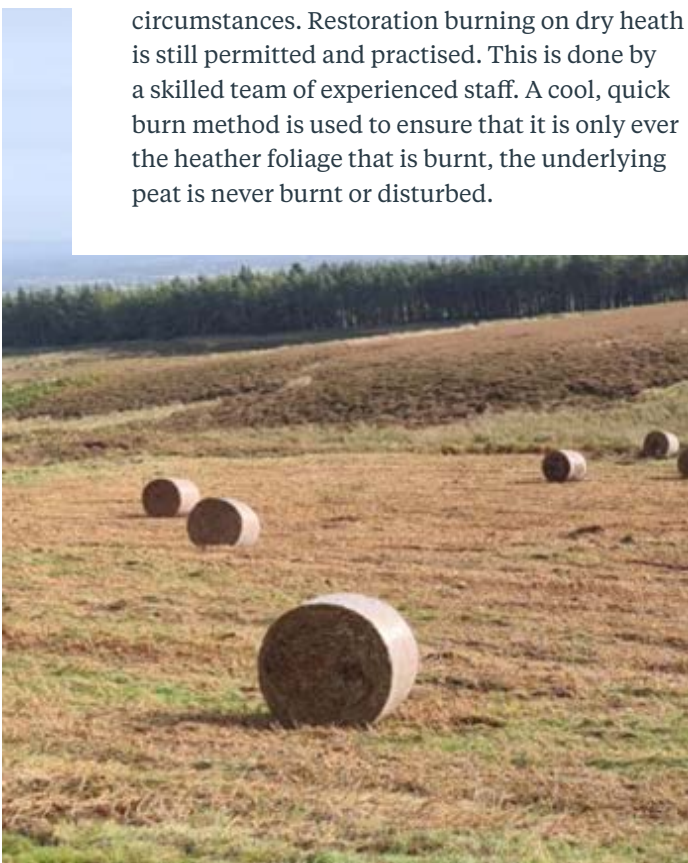
The brash created is usually spread evenly over the cut site, typically a small area of say (50m x 10m). When the hydrological condition of the blanket bog is right, then this brash soon begins to degrade and then adds to the peat layer.

Raby is seeking to utilise some of the cut heather and this year with SSSI consent we have and will be harvesting approximately 4,000 bags (cubic meter) of heather brash from key locations (donor sites) and using this to revegetate the areas of peatland restoration which we are undertaking in partnership with the Peat Partnership and others. These donor sites have been carefully selected to provide the right amount of heather and other dwarf shrub brash and seed stock. Some sites with a healthy presence of sphagnum moss will also be harvested with the intention that the Sphagnum will readily establish on the restoration site too. Establishing sphagnum is a labour-intensive process so hopefully, this method will work.

Bracken has for years been a problem in the upper dale, historically farmers would harvest it and use it for livestock winter bedding and then a farmyard fertiliser for the land. This practice is now rare but the encroaching nature of bracken remains a serious problem. One method is to use a chemical spray applied by helicopter to kill the plant however this year Raby has sought to try a new method that avoids chemicals and creates a useful raw material for a peat-free compost product. Of course, the locations in which bracken typically grows (steep, inaccessible, stoney ground) means that chemical control will still need to have its place but for the more accessible locations, we have worked with a Cumbrian company who have harvested the bracken using a typical agricultural process of cutting the bracken and round baling it. These bales are then transported to their facilities and turned into compost in a matter of weeks.

Heather and Bracken are both currently an underused resource, continued management of Raby's moorland and utilising both plants in the above ways will improve the existing moorland but also reduce the burden on other resources which all factor into the UK's goal for net-zero, providing a rich environment for wildlife and upland stakeholders.

Joe Robinson, Land Agent Durham



The background image is a photograph of a grand, ornate interior room, likely a library or study in Raby Castle. The room features a high ceiling with intricate gold leaf decorations and a large, multi-tiered chandelier with lit candles. Heavy, patterned red and gold curtains hang from a large window, which looks out onto a landscape. In the foreground, there are several ornate chairs and a table, suggesting a place of study or formal gatherings.

RABY
CASTLE

From Parchment to Portraits

Summer 2021 has been all-go in the collections team. In April we welcomed our new archivist, Gabriel Damaszk who joins us to work through an estimated 500 linear metres of historic documents. For the last 13 years Gabriel has worked for Durham County Record Office, meaning he has a strong head start when it comes to understanding our local landscape and history.

Leisure & Tourism

Update from the Curatorial and Archives team

Gabriel's first job is to survey the collections, checking against existing lists and locations. With archival material potentially scattered across the castle and further afield, this is no mean feat and this meticulous job is matched with repackaging the records into archival quality boxes and sleeves to ensure that it is protected for future generations.

Inevitably, Gabriel's work has led to some interesting discoveries ...



While working his way through rusty metal trunks containing old title deeds, he found quite a few bundles of really old parchment documents. The earliest spotted so far is a Shropshire document dated 1253!

Many of those early documents have impressive seals, like the one opposite from the Elizabethan period. Gabriel found two seals from two different Elizabethan documents dated 1575 and 1600.

While Gabriel has been busy with the archive, our curator has been working through the object and art collections. During the pandemic, information about the collections was transferred to a new, specialists computer-based records system.

This growing database makes it easier to keep track of the thousands of items at Raby Castle, and to add information as it is discovered.



Some valuable projects have been taking place with volunteers and student interns to bring information about the collections together, from creating biographies of generations of the Vane family at Raby so that we can link individuals to the items they owned, purchased or were given; to information about the artists whose wonderful work grace the walls of the castle.

Having that information to hand means that we can look at familiar material in a new way, and this summer we worked with the British & Irish Furniture Makers Online scheme on a project to better understand the castle's stunning Octagon Drawing Room. Modelled in 1848 by Scottish architect William Burn, as regular visitors to Raby will know, the room was subject to a major conservation project in the 1990s, restoring it to its current magnificence. The story of the conservation project has delighted audiences for decades and BIFMO funded two postgraduate scholarships for students in USA and England to work together to research a different aspect of the room; how it was used and the context and makers for some of the interiors. The two students worked together virtually throughout summer and their end result was a new interactive blog on our website, allowing visitors to virtually 'browse' the room and share the research findings. To virtually visit the Octagon Drawing Room visit www.raby.co.uk/blog

Julie Biddlecombe-Brown, Castle Curator

RABY
HIGH FORCE

From
Strength
to strength



It has been a challenging year for the hospitality industry, here at High Force, it has been no different. We have been working at full steam to continue to advance our excellent hospitality and service in our magnificent newly refurbished hotel going from strength to strength. The Garden Room is our new restaurant, which not only is a beautiful dining room but also transforms into a stunning wedding reception venue. We were lucky enough to host four special weddings earlier in the year and we have many more booked in for the future, which is exciting. Despite the government restrictions as we emerged from lockdown, these weddings were simply amazing and each bride and groom had the most memorable and perfect day that we are all very proud to have been a part of. This is a testament to the brilliant team we are fortunate to have here at High Force.

I know it is the team that makes us stand out here. We have the most committed, loyal, and genuinely passionate people. Like a “work family” we are all striving for the same objective, to make each and every one of our guests have the best experience possible.

Ben Heath has joined the team as Head Chef, Ben has excellent skills which he has developed in a number of fine establishments over the years and we are starting to see his flair and passion for simple food, cooked well, shine through. It’s exciting to see his food come from the kitchen and wonderful to see the glowing reviews and feedback from our guests and visitors. The kitchen development here at High Force is something that really excites me and we look forward to the new festive menu in December.

Andrew Lindsey, High Force Hotel General Manager



Raby has recently welcomed a new full-time Estate Ranger to the team. Andy Gibson started with us five months ago and you might catch him on the Upper Teesdale Estate at places like High Force Hotel and Low Force Waterfall. We caught up with Andy to find out more about his role and why he wanted to join the team at Raby.

Tell us about yourself and your background

I did a degree in Zoology at Aberystwyth University. I've always had an interest in animals and wildlife which led me to study Zoology. Coming out of University I then moved into the practical side of work. I took a job down in South Devon in the Torbay area where I worked for 2 years, learning about how to be a Ranger; the practical maintenance and about the wildlife, and all of the other aspects of the job. After that I chose to go travelling for a few years, so I headed out to Australia, Asia and saw as much as I could. After my adventure, I then came back to the UK and worked in a few different positions before getting back into the conservation side of things at Raby.

What is the role of a Ranger?

The role of a Ranger can be very varied. For me it means dealing with the public and making sure people are behaving in a responsible manner and being safe. It also involves educating people about the area. We get lots of visitors to Upper Teesdale, especially between High and Low Force. We want to try and give them as much information about the area as possible, and make sure they can enjoy it in the best way possible. Other aspects of the job that I'm involved with include the fishing and river access permits. We're also starting to run some guided talks up at High Force, to provide an educational aspect.

At Raby, we have a lot of tenant farmers who I'm hoping to work with, as well as the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Natural England and other groups or landowners nearby. From engaging with the public and local organisations, to looking after wildlife, my role can be anything in between, I just go where I'm needed.



What attracted you to working at Raby?

My initial impression about Raby, after undertaking some research and speaking to the team, was that it sounded like a really interesting place to work. Looking at their vision for the future and the speed at which they are progressing is really exciting. Raby are expanding at quite a rate and are looking to head in a new direction in terms of the large-scale Rising Developments at Raby Castle and the recent renovations at High Force Hotel & Waterfall. Their core values include a big focus on sustainability, supporting the community and preserving the natural environment which really appealed to me. Everyone that I spoke to at Raby were very passionate about what they do and had that drive to achieve great things.

What have you enjoyed most since starting the role?

The best part of my job is getting to open and close up the waterfall route every morning and night. Having five minutes alone down at the bottom of the waterfall with the peace and quiet and watching the water is excellent. It's a really nice part of the job. Apart from that I love the variety, there are so many different things I get to do. Each day is different to the next and it takes me all the way up and down the Teesdale Estate, so I get to see a lot of different places and wildlife. At the moment I'm enjoying being involved in as much as possible and seeing where it leads to. I'm really excited about all of the different prospects and the future that I might have here at Raby.

A group of four people, two men and two women, are standing outdoors in front of a light-colored building with a chimney. They are all wearing dark blue jackets with the 'RABY' logo. The man on the far left is wearing a light blue shirt and jeans. The man in the center is wearing a red patterned tie and dark trousers. The woman on the far left is wearing a grey sweater and dark trousers. The woman on the far right is wearing a cream-colored sweater and dark trousers. The background shows trees with yellow autumn leaves and a stone wall.

RABY

A warm
Welcome

We are delighted to introduce some
new members to the team at Raby.

Raby Estates

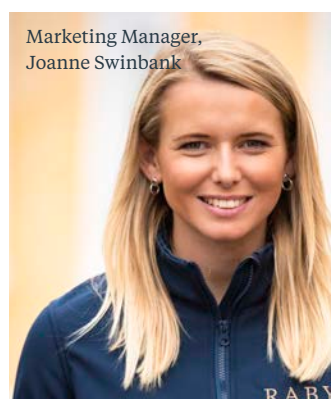
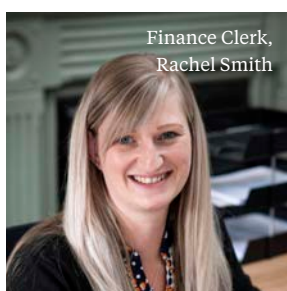
New Faces

In preparation for The Rising Developments, we have welcomed new Construction Manager Simon Hills and Construction Administrator Hannah Stanbridge to the team at Raby. We are currently recruiting a Head Gardener who will be responsible for managing and maintaining the historic Walled Gardens and significant new landscaped areas within the development.

Raby Castle has seen an influx of new starters including Marketing Manager Joanne Swinbank who will be responsible for directing a strategic marketing plan for the launch of The Rising, Digital Marketing Executive Holly Gambles, Estate Receptionist Anne Richardson and Archivist Gabriel Damaszk.

After several months in a freelance position at the attraction's Stables Shop, Lisa Wilkinson has now taken on a permanent role as our Retail Manager. One of Lisa's objectives is to increase product lines to support local producers and lead on The Rising development retail spaces.

Over at High Force Hotel we have welcomed our new Chef Ben Heath and Billy Ballantyne, Housekeeper Nicola Starks, Estate Ranger Andy Gibson and Visitor Welcome Host, Judith Martyn.



We have also welcomed plenty of new General Assistants across the Leisure and Tourism Team across both High Force Hotel and Raby Castle - Cody Turner, Rachel Turner, Jemma Forster, Luke Robinson, Francesca Blackett, Hannah Waistell, Ellie Colling, Laura Williamson, Daisy Home, Lindsay De Martino, Holly Knight, Emma Dodgson, Nina Holguin, Maureen Cummins, Joshua Stewart, Jessica Macaulay and Eleanor Crick. Our new Kitchen team includes Victoria Walker and Lucy Slater.

Across the wider Estate we would like to welcome Ben Hall and Rachel Smith to our Finance team, as we say a fond farewell to Sharon Barker our Accounts Administrator. Other new faces include Tradesman, Kevin Butterfield, Skilled Labourer, Joe Butterfield, Apprentice Joiner, Ty Morgan and Property and Operations Assistant Annette Bishton. Philip Vickers also joins us as Farm Manager to oversee the extensive Raby Estate and drive forward sustainable and regenerative farming models.

We look forward to seeing the Raby team continue to grow with new skills and personalities as our future developments take place.



R A B Y

A magical
Christmas

Raby has seen a spectacular summer season of events for 2021. From singalong cinema in the Walled Gardens to educational walks at High Force, we've seen lots of smiling faces at Raby. With the festive season fast approaching, we can't wait to share the magic of a traditional Raby Christmas with staff and visitors. Find out what's in store this Winter.

Upcoming Events

Lumiere Festival

**Thursday 18th –
Sunday 21st November**

We are delighted to announce that we will be hosting the incredible Lumiere Festival on the 18th – 21st November with Artichoke Trust.

Christmas Shop

4th November – 24th December



Get into the festive spirit with some early Christmas shopping in our beautiful Stables Shop. Discover unique seasonal gifts including our Raby Castle Traditional Ginger Wine, festive treats and decorations for your Raby tree which you can collect in our Coach Yard.

Christmas Trees

**Trees on sale from
Saturday 27th November**



A family tradition at Raby – visitors love coming to collect their Raby tree every year. Explore our range of Christmas trees in the Coach Yard and pop into our Stables Shop for a spot of Christmas shopping.

Fireside Stories with Father Christmas

**Selected dates in
November & December**



Come and meet Father Christmas this winter season in the spectacular setting of Raby Castle. Follow our festive footmen through glittering halls and gather round our roaring fire in the Entrance Hall for a special story with Father Christmas.

Enchanted Forest Trail

**Selected dates in
November & December**



Follow the trail through our Enchanted Festive Forest in the Walled Gardens to discover our magical Christmas scenes.

Christmas Market

**Saturday 4th and
Sunday 5th December**

Christmas is a magical time at Raby and one of our highlights of the festive season is our Christmas Market. Come and browse our lovely stalls in the Coach Yard and discover lots of delicious treats, seasonal produce and beautiful homemade products from local suppliers.

Festive Afternoon Teas

Friday 3rd, 10th & 17th December

This special event will be a celebration of all things sweet and festive, and will take place in the magnificent setting of Raby Castle's Grand Entrance Hall.

Festive Dining & Christmas Day Lunch at High Force

Throughout December



Join us in December and dine from our delicious festive menu. Whether catching up with friends or bringing the office out for a Christmas treat, High Force is the perfect location for a festive meal throughout December.

New Years' Day

1st January 2022



Start the New Year with a relaxed stroll in the beautiful Deer Park at Raby Castle and help us raise money for our chosen charity of 2022, **The Brain Tumour Charity.**



For further details and
to book tickets visit
www.raby.co.uk/whats-on

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