

R A B Y

Autumn 2023

Farming | Forestry | Land Management | Buildings | Development | Leisure & Tourism

An aerial photograph of a valley in Raby, North Yorkshire. The landscape is dominated by rolling hills covered in vibrant purple heather. In the foreground, a large, dark, corrugated metal barn with a chimney stands on a slope. A small stream flows through the valley floor. The sky is a clear blue with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is a beautiful example of upland moorland scenery.

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# Land Management

## Spotlight

# Raby welcomes local children to 'learn moor' in Upper Teesdale

In July, almost 300 children were welcomed to Raby Estates to step into the UK's largest uplands classroom.

The 'Let's Learn Moor' initiative took place in seven locations across the North of England, 288 children from 10 schools across County Durham were invited to feel the spongy moss under their feet. They had the opportunity to meet the people and organisations helping to protect Raby's stunning Upper Teesdale moorland and its species.

Coordinated in collaboration with Countryside Learning and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), the children, aged seven to nine-years-old, were led through the six stations, including:

- The County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service – showcasing its role in protecting the moors and the danger of wildfires.
- The North Pennines AONB Partnership – explaining what a peatland is, how they are being restored in the North Pennines, and why they are important for people, the climate and nature.
- Raby Estate's game keepers – explaining the wild food chain, pest and predator control and habitat management.
- The Northern Pennines Moorland Group – exploring the varied wildlife on the moors, from pests to game birds, predators and waders.
- Esther – The Country Cook – a local chef, treating the children to delicious game delights, including venison sausage rolls, pheasant goujons & baked grouse.
- The Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Service (UTASS) – showcasing the everyday life of an upland farm, including sheep rearing and the production of high-quality wool.

The 'Let's Learn Moor' initiative was held at Raby Estate and took place at Coldberry Mine, the last working mine in Upper Teesdale.





## Valance Lodge Peat Restoration

The Valance Lodge Peat Restoration project, completed over a period of 3 years, has been a huge success and we are already seeing noticeable results.

The levels of vegetation cover and water retention has significantly improved, and early indications suggest the peat restoration site has been worth the hard work by all involved.

The restoration has had the most desired effect on the shallower-grade areas. On the steep sided hags and areas of high water flow, initial interventions have been successful but it is likely more will be needed. The variable weather could have been a contributing factor to this, as hydrology and water flow from a restored site still needs to be carefully considered and managed.

Some new techniques were trialled as part of the last tranche of works, including wool dams and reprofiling methods, which included the sodding 'turving' of the hagg sides, as an alternative to brush revegetation. The works are carried out by a highly skilled digger operative and the hagg has instantly revegetated. We are hoping to carry out more of these restoration works on a greater scale in the near future.

This is the first large-scale site carried out by the North Pennines Peat Partnership, with skill sets and understanding evolving through the project.



# Landscape Recovery Scheme

In September, Raby Estates applied for DEFRA's Landscape Recovery Scheme.

In Raby Shropshire, the collaboration with two neighbouring local Shropshire Estates and their respective group of farming tenants included approximately 12,500 acres of Shropshire countryside between the Wrekin and Haughmond Hill.

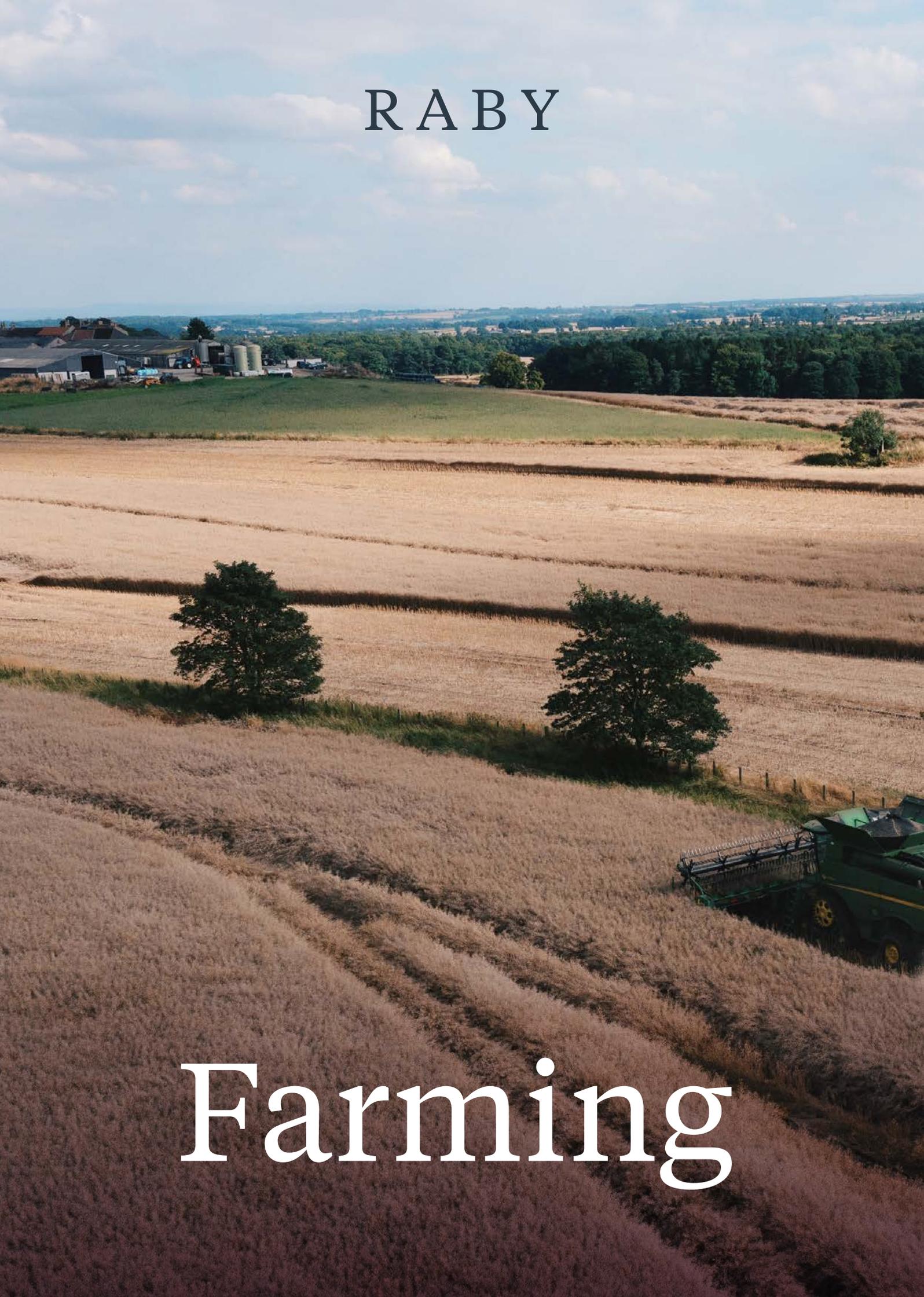
In County Durham, Raby together with Strathmore Estate, neighbouring owners and many farm tenants across both Estates have submitted a bid encompassing 35,800 ac in Upper Teesdale.

Many other associated organisations have contributed to the bids which if they successfully pass the first round of the process in December will move into a 2 year development phase. This will then lead to the co-design of a bespoke management agreement across the did area for a 25 year period up to 2050. The projects will specifically focus on environmental and climate enhancements on a landscape scale and with particular reference to biodiversity, water quality, net zero and protecting fauna and flora rich habitats, whilst still producing food across the project areas.



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Farming



# Spotlight

## Farming Update

Philip Vickers and the farming team are committed to implementing best-practice farming techniques aimed at significantly reducing fertiliser usage.

The aim is to become as sustainable as possible to support the Estate's wider ambition to operate in a more sustainable way. With this in mind, biological alternatives to agrochemicals are being put through their paces to see what they have to offer, while livestock is also playing a role, with sheep being used to graze winter cereals and oilseed rape.

Alongside this, the nitrogen plan is working well, cutting back on nitrogen in the previous year with yields increasing. Rates were lifted slightly in 2023, after a wet winter but we are also making better use of the organic manures and precision application.

Around 90% of the Farm was directly drilled in Autumn 2022 but the wetter soil conditions have led to the figure being reduced this year due to the challenging harvest and drill season. This has resulted in some areas of the crop being established by conventional means, either due to the need to remove harvest ruts or the land just being too wet for the direct drills to run. However, the land ploughed very well after two years of direct drilling. The latest research shows us that the soil's biological bounce back is rapid if ploughing is only occasionally used as an establishment method.

The consistently wet season has presented challenges, particularly in managing a significant slug population, which needed constant attention. Interestingly, the directly drilled wheat after the winter beans thrived, showcasing that the decision to alter the rotation was a good one.

Throughout drilling the uses of the plough were shown yet we have still managed to establish a considerable area to direct drill. The healthier and more resilient soils that are being created by our regenerative approach give us wider windows for getting fieldwork done. The team is hoping for a cold, dry winter to aid in pest control.



“We still have a way to go but we have learnt that timeliness matters and the progression and stability in the yields have been fantastic.”

The new grain store has proved to be a great addition to aid harvest and maximise the return from the crops.



## Thank You

At Raby Home Farm we would like to thank Andrew Richardson and Martyn Hibberd for their many years of service supporting farming across the estate and dedication to their roles. Both Andrew and Martyn continue to help the farm during our busy periods and have been a great help over harvest.

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Shropshire



# Harvest Update

Our journey into regenerative agriculture in Shropshire continues, but not without its challenges.

This year's harvest was challenging in every way, from intense heat, through to sustained periods of rainfall which resulted in flattened crops. However, at the time of writing this update, all the 2024 crops are now established and progressing well. Earthworm activity seems to be increasing, as they are more apparent near the surface, feeding on straw debris and other organic matter. Earthworm counts will be taken later in the season.

Moving forward, the Sustainability Farming Incentive (SFI 2023) will be applied for, alongside the implementation of 'straight line farming.' This method involves sowing the crops in squares or rectangles within the most productive areas of the field whilst cutting out irregularly shaped regions and less productive field corners. These areas will be dedicated to wildflower mixes, fostering a habitat for wildlife. Over time, it is hoped that the adoption of these practices will increase among farmers across Raby Shropshire.

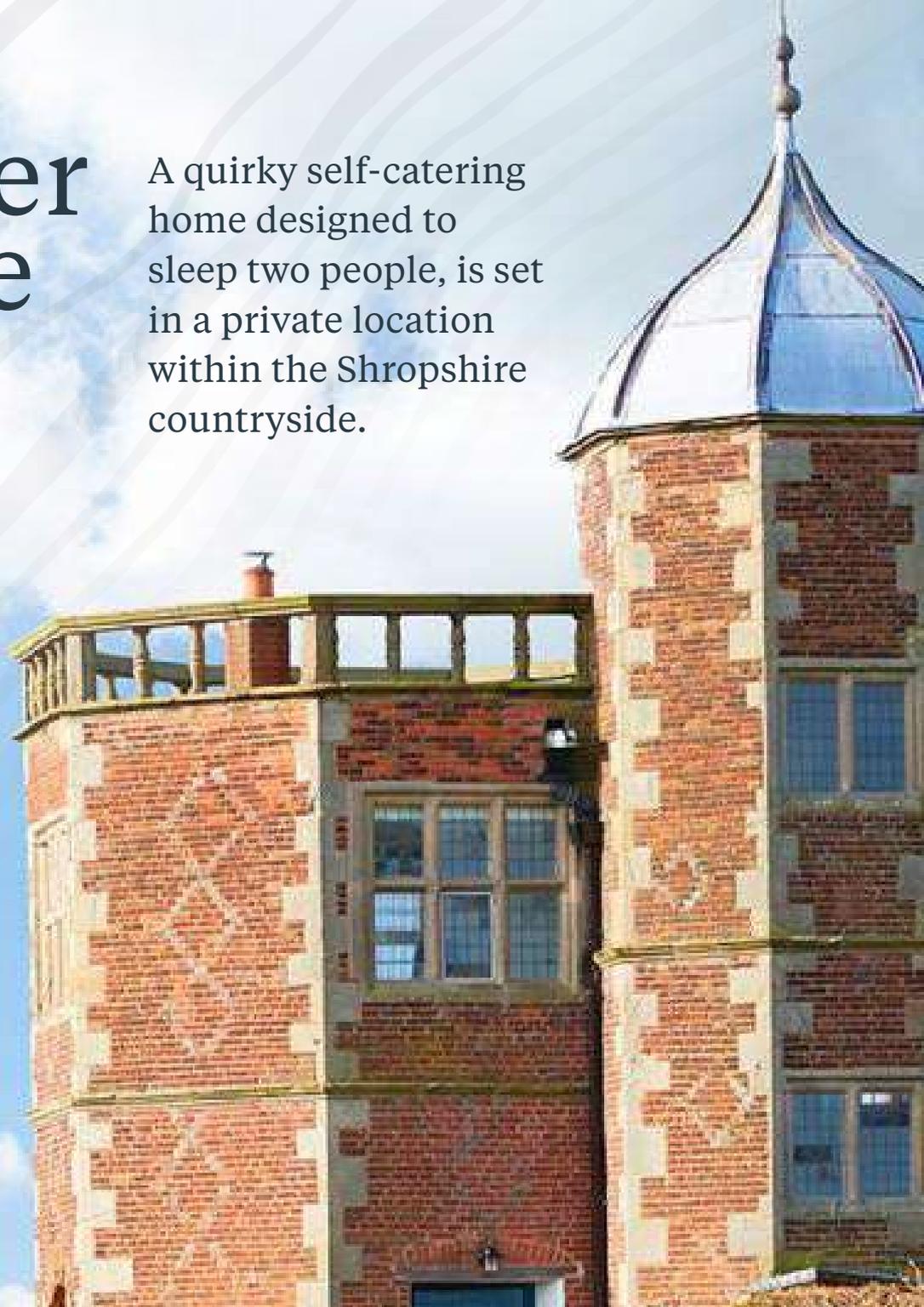
Field hedges are now managed on a 2-year rotation, with different sections of hedges targeted each year to ensure a consistent presence of flowers for pollinators in spring and berries for birds in autumn. Carbon can be sequestered and stored in the biomass of hedges, as well as in the soil beneath them.



# The Summer House

Holiday Home

A quirky self-catering home designed to sleep two people, is set in a private location within the Shropshire countryside.



## 3 nights for the price of 2

between Wednesday 13th September 2023 & until 17th December 2023

The Grade II listed octagonal tower was built in 1607 as a banqueting house, now used as a unique countryside getaway. The Summer House has a wooden spiral staircase linking its two floors, with a beautifully decorated interior complete with exposed oak beams and a wood burner. The views from the rooms and private patio look out over the surrounding fields to the Wrekin and Shropshire Hills. Nearby, guests can walk along the Severn Way and head to the remains of the Roman city of Wroxeter, or visit the county's capital Shrewsbury, only a 15 minute drive away. The Summer House is the perfect location for a rural retreat, escaping the norms of everyday life.

To book online visit [www.ruralretreats.co.uk](http://www.ruralretreats.co.uk)



## Wild Raby Venison – From Field to Fork

Great British Game Week –  
6th to 12th November 2023

Wild Raby Venison can now be purchased from the Raby Estate Office in Uppington. We sustainably source our Wild Raby Venison from local populations of Fallow deer across the Estate. Venison is known for being an ethical and low-carbon meat choice. It's a lean, high-quality protein meat with a rich supply of B vitamins and iron, making Wild Raby Venison a healthy option.

Wild Raby Venison is now being served at Embers Café, situated in an amazing woodland setting in Coalbrookdale, run by Adam Purnell. This recent collaboration has positively raised the profile of Wild Raby Venison, where Adam cooks our venison on an open fire in front of his diners to produce some stunning dishes.

To purchase a wide choice of cuts, from loin steaks to rolled haunches or simply burgers or sausages, just pop into the Raby Estate Office or phone ahead to place your order for Great British Game Week and of course, for Christmas.



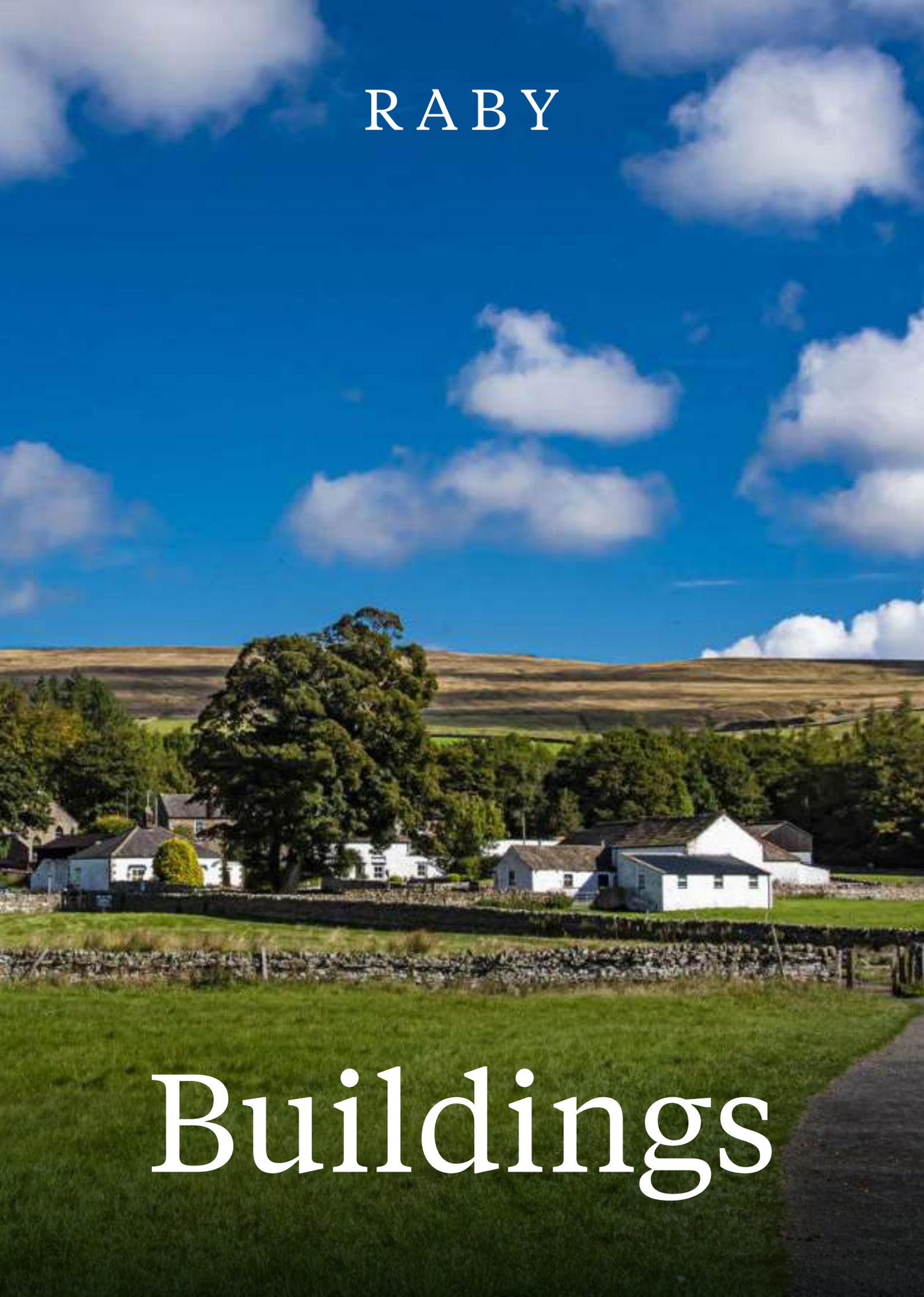
Alongside Wild Raby Venison and our usual selection of Raby Christmas Trees, this year we will also be stocking Raby Hedgerow Honey & natural beeswax candles, a selection of Shropshire Cheeses & Artisan Biscuits, a selection of handcrafted Wrekin Gins, plus many more locally sourced items.

To subscribe to the Raby Newsletter visit [www.raby.co.uk](http://www.raby.co.uk)

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Raby Estates Shropshire held their 1st Coffee Morning on Friday 29th September 2023 in aid of Macmillan, at Uppington & Wroxeter Cricket Club. The morning raised £159.44 and we received great feedback from the local residents. Cake contributions came from the Raby Estate staff & tenants. Raffle prizes were also donated from local businesses.



A scenic view of a village in Raby, featuring white buildings, a large tree, and rolling hills under a blue sky with white clouds.

R A B Y

Buildings



## Spotlight

# 11 Front Street

Raby Projects Team carried out a refurbishment at 11 Front Street, Staindrop.

The Grade 2 property was given a full refurbishment of a new kitchen, bathroom, floor coverings and decoration. The anthracite-fuelled boiler was removed and replaced with an A-rated gas fired boiler. Works were carried out sympathetically using traditional techniques to repair and restore the windows and doors, as well as traditional lime pointing to the front elevation. 11 Front Street was completed and has achieved a C-69, making it energy efficient for modern-day living.

## Ash Hill

Ash Hill in Forest in Teesdale is currently undergoing a full refurbishment. The property has been largely untouched over the years and had no means of mains electricity. The Projects Team have worked with Northern Power Grid to install electricity to the building, allowing works to progress in earnest. There is significant work to be done to the fabric of the building including re-roofing, structural works and utilising the garage space to create a large kitchen. The Projects Team, alongside local contractors, have worked tirelessly so far to make the property watertight prior to installing floor, wall and roof insulation. The project is expected to be completed in early 2024, ready to be handed over to the Raby Property Team for letting.



## Karl Hankey

For the past five years Karl has been responsible for a team who maintains and refurbishes properties across the Estate. The 41-year-old decided to return to Darlington College one day a week for two years and has just secured distinctions across the board in HNC building studies. Karl has just overseen the complete refurbishment of grade 2\* Hilton Hall making it habitable for modern day living. It started life as a medieval chapel of St Catherine's Chantry to Staindrop Church, and has been extended over the 17th and 18th century.



## Jack Addison

Jack, who has worked for Raby Estates for over 4 years as part of his Level 3 Apprenticeship in Site Joinery with Darlington College, has recently qualified, achieving a pass overall. He is a strong member of the Projects Team and is working with the existing trades to gain knowledge and experience in all aspects of building work. Jack has worked on many projects so far, enabling him to develop his skills through gaining an understanding of the unique and varied properties found across Raby Estates.

R A B Y



Forestry

# Spotlight From Towering Trees to Sustainable Seating

Raby members can now preview the reimagined East Gardens, where they can sit upon benches made and sourced right here on the Estate.

The Forestry team have played an instrumental role in supplying estate grown and carved timber benches for the redesigned Walled Gardens at Raby Castle. The project saw estate departments work together perfectly, as Forestry, Gardens and Construction colleagues, lifted the beautiful creations into place within the wonderful setting, ahead of the preview for Raby members to enjoy.

In June, two hundred Raby Castle members were given an exclusive first look at the remodelled East Garden. Lord and Lady Barnard invited guests to view the first completed section of the 18th Century Walled Garden, which features a unique tiered grass amphitheatre. This wonderful space will be used for a host of summer activities, including plays and musical events, as well as providing visitors with a beautiful garden for quiet contemplation. This was the first phase of an exciting newly designed walled garden, carefully crafted by world-renowned garden designer Luciano Giubbilei in close collaboration with Lady Barnard.



## Ahead of His Time

Raby Estate's previous Head Forester, Hamish Jeffrey has been awarded the Royal Forestry Society Sylva Trophy recognising his outstanding contribution to forestry. Hamish worked on the Estate for over 25 years, between 1984 to 2009, overseeing the management of the woodlands with dedication, skill and tenacity. He focussed on growing productive trees as part of the landscape and environment which was a concept ahead of its time.

R A B Y

The  
Rising

## Updates

# Rising Development

The Rising development has marked a major milestone, as work commences on the Estate's new Vinery Café Restaurant.

The new eatery is a stylish and airy recreation of the historic glasshouse which once stood in the same spot and will offer panoramic views of the castle and surrounding parkland.

On completion, this reimagined dining venue will welcome over 200 guests to enjoy seasonal and locally sourced food in the stunning historic surroundings.

The new interpretation of the Vinery glasshouse will tell the story of its predecessor, artistically weaving retained features, such as the historic potting shed wall and reclaimed York Stone paving, with new, thoughtfully sourced glass, ceramics and stone. Extensive planting and greenery will surround the restaurant, embedding it into the landscape.

“We are delighted to mark this exciting chapter in the restoration and rejuvenation of our heritage spaces, a milestone in the Rising development,”

says Claire Jones, Head of Leisure and Tourism at Raby Estates. “The Vinery Café Restaurant will be one of the most beautiful buildings in the development with its own character, embracing and celebrating its past. It will be enjoyed by almost everyone that visits Raby Castle, and offers a unique space for all kinds of special events which cannot be found elsewhere.”



Spotlight

# Bookings open at Raby Castle's new event spaces



The Rising development has marked another momentous milestone, as bookings for 2024 events become available for the magnificent new events spaces. These iconic spaces will welcome guests to enjoy unique events opportunities in the stunning historical surroundings within Raby's beautiful parkland.

The new spaces will be the ideal location to host events of all sizes, from product launches to fashion shows, exhibitions and market-style fairs. Unlike a hotel or traditional conference venue, each individual setting will offer the exclusive combination of heritage, character and energy, in Raby's beautiful parkland setting.

Across the project, structural work has been completed on Raby's best kept secret, the Grade II\* listed Dutch Barn; an iconic piece of architecture which has been hidden for decades, and is now set to become an unmatched venue for all kinds of special events.

During the works, though the structure of the open-sided barn was secure, stone repairs were needed throughout the elegant agricultural building, as well as repairs to the exposed beams and timbers.

As with the rest of the project, where possible, the original timber has been saved and reused, with new timber blending sympathetically with the old to maintain the structural integrity. The completed space offers an arcaded building, providing an elegant, covered venue for a multitude of events.

Work is currently underway on the neighbouring Riding School. The extraordinary space was once used to showcase Raby's illustrious equine past and sits adjacent to the Georgian Coach House.

These areas will be symmetrically linked with stairs and adjoining ramps traversing the newly installed Duchess's Walk, a beautifully landscaped area for quiet reflection in this busy destination.



## Business Development

Raby has welcomed Laura Evans to the Leisure and Tourism team ahead of this exciting run up to the launch of the Rising.

Laura will lead on business development, developing our corporate events offer as well as sourcing new and exciting events across each of the new spaces. The newly created event spaces will allow us to accommodate a wide spectrum of celebratory events along with networking events, products launches and retreats. Laura can't wait to get started planning the most perfect experiences for our visitors.

A photograph of Raby Castle, a large stone building with multiple towers and battlements, situated on a high bank overlooking a body of water. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden-hued clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the light from the sky and the castle.

R A B Y

# What's coming up

Time to open the doors on a packed  
autumn and winter programme  
across the Raby Estate.

# Upcoming Events



## Halloween Trails

**The Plotters' Forest | Deer Park | High Force  
Until 5th November**



## Raby Castle Pumpkin Competition

**Raby Castle  
31st October**



## Deer Park at Dusk

**Raby Castle  
4th November**



## After Dark Trail

**The Plotters' Forest  
31st October**



## Christmas Shopping Evening

**Raby Castle  
3rd November**

## Stargazing Suppers

**High Force**

**3rd, 4th, 10th November and  
1st, 8th, 15th, 16th December**

**Final  
Tickets**

## Fireside Stories with Father Christmas

**Raby Castle**

**Until 24th December**

**Sold  
Out**

## Christmas Wreath Workshop

**Raby Castle**

**25th November & 2nd December**

**Sold  
Out**

## Stir up Sunday

**Raby Castle**

**26th November**



## Christmas Trails

**Deer Park, Raby Castle | High Force Waterfall  
From 18th November**



## Enchanted Christmas Trail

**The Plotters' Forest  
From 18th November**





## Festive Dining & Christmas Day Lunch

**High Force Hotel**  
**Throughout December**



## Christmas Afternoon Tea

**High Force Hotel**  
**10th & 17th December**



**Sold Out**

## A Magical Christmas Stay

**High Force Hotel**  
**24th - 27th December**



**Sold Out**

## Festive Afternoon Tea

**Raby Castle**  
**Throughout December**



**Book Now**

## New Years Eve Stay

**High Force Hotel**  
**30th December 2023 - 1st January 2024**



**FREE ENTRY**

## Christmas Market

**Raby Castle**  
**2nd & 3rd December**



## Charity Opening New Year's Day

**Raby Castle Deer Park**  
**1st January 2024**



R A B Y

A warm

Welcome

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

# RABY

## Updates Sustainability Manager

Victoria Cadman has been appointed in a new role here at Raby, as Sustainability Manager. The role is set to deliver ambitious targets for environmental enhancement and meet the challenge of climate change.

Victoria is an environmental scientist with over 25 years of consulting knowledge, NGO and advisory experience for private and public sector clients around the world. Victoria has taken up this newly created role to inspire, challenge and guide the Estate to deliver agreed sustainability targets and accelerate the move towards a de-carbonised future.

With an excellent track record in environmental science, project management and Environmental and Social Governance (ESG), Victoria will be responsible for developing and implementing Raby's Sustainability Strategy. She will also be working closely with the property, farm and forestry management teams to support Raby's regenerative farming strategy, co-ordinate agri-environmental schemes and develop carbon neutral, natural capital and scientific research initiatives across the Estate.

Victoria will also develop other initiatives to engage tenants and suppliers with issues relating to environmental sustainability, and research renewable energy opportunities for the Estate to further Raby's sustainability goals.



## Raby Estates

# New Faces and Fond Farewells

Here at Raby, we have had the privilege to work with a variety of talented individuals, each of whom have brought something unique to the fold. We offer our team the opportunity to work in remarkable locations, from the rugged landscape of Upper Teesdale to the plains of Shropshire.



Catherine Scanlan,  
General Assistant

As the Estate expands, we are taking on new employees to strengthen our team as we prepare for the grand opening of The Rising Development. Our commitment to delivering excellence and innovation in every aspect of our work is reflected in our growing and dynamic workforce, and we look forward to the bright future that lies ahead.

This Autumn we have welcomed a host of new members to the Raby Estates Team. High Force have welcomed General Assistants Catherine Scanlan, Eleanor Morris, Phillipa Morris, Pheobe Morris and Harriet Morris, and Food and Beverage Assistants Catherine Raine and Donna Mcalister. We would also like to introduce new Visitor Welcome Hosts Ian Scanlan, Katie Norgate and Mick Carr. We have also welcomed the new Head Chef at High Force, Richard Hickman, and Tania Bennet, the new Administration Assistant.



Max Pearson,  
Estate Plantsperson

The Castle team would like to welcome Retail, Buying and Merchandising Manager Stephanie Goss, Business Development Executive Laura Evans, and Digital Marketing Coordinator Katie Turnbull. After completing her MA in Conservation, Davina Thompson joins us temporarily as a Conservation Assistant. The Garden Team have welcomed Max Pearson, who is the new plantsperson for the estate.

The Leisure and Tourism Team would like to welcome General Catering Assistants Eadie Lickrish, Ellie Colling and Emily Teasdale, and General Assistant Lucy Branch.



Owen Wharton,  
Apprentice Painter and Decorator

As The Rising is in full swing, we have welcomed lots of team members to help with the development. George Rough joins us as Traffic Marshall. We have also welcomed a Joiner, Colin Wright and a Joinery Supervisor, Liam Price. Over at Home Farm Alexander Pressley has joined the team and is settling in well. Owen Wharton has also joined the team as an Apprentice Painter and Decorator.

Victoria Cadman has joined the senior management team as Sustainability Manager. Abigail Rothery has joined us as a Management and Project Accountant and Isabella Ann Plews has joined us as an Apprentice Accounts Assistant.

Sadly, we say our farewells to staff who are moving on to pastures new. We would like to say a big thank you to Andrew Atkinson and George McQueen for all their hard work on The Rising project. We wish well Ella Willis, Jessica Wearmouth, Rachel Atkinson, Keira Chippendale and Rebecca Stobart for their support within our hospitality team.

Ty Morgan will be moving onto pastures new after a successful apprenticeship as a joiner with us here at Raby. We also want to say thank you and goodbye to Lisa Wilkinson, our Retail Manager.

Thank you all for your contributions to the Estate, and we wish you all the best with your future endeavours.



Abigail Rothery,  
Management and Project Accountant

RABY

Careers  
at Raby Estate



# Raby Estates

## Join our team

At Raby, we offer you the opportunity to work in extraordinary locations, in an exciting environment where no two days are the same. By joining our team, you'll not only be part of an ambitious community but also a family of talented and like-minded individuals.



Apprentice Joiner  
at Raby Castle



Quantity Surveyor  
at Raby Castle



Skilled Construction Worker  
at Raby Castle



Estate Gardener  
at Raby Castle



General Catering Assistant  
at Raby Castle



Seasonal Actors & Support Staff  
at Raby Castle

### Contact

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