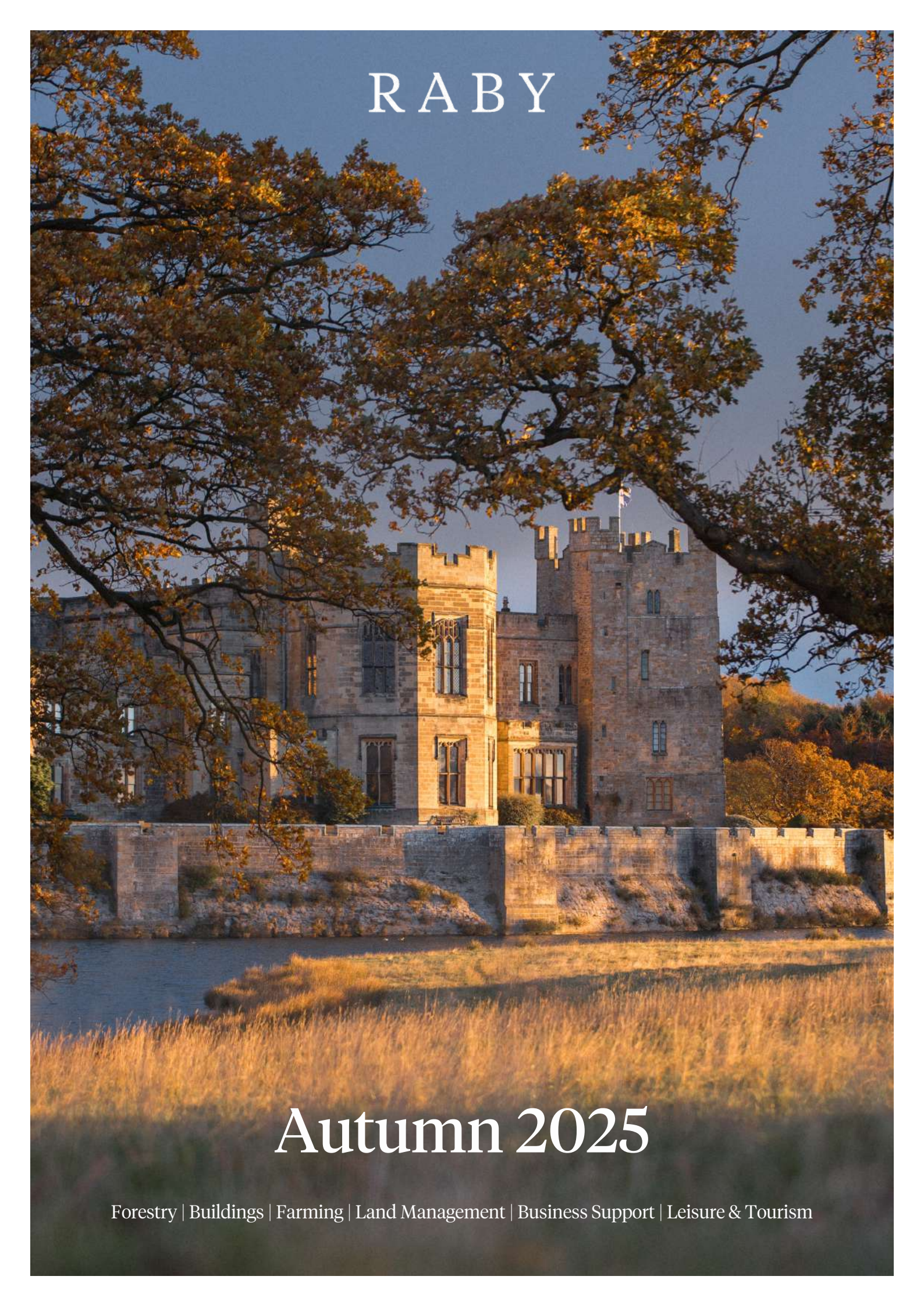




R A B Y

Autumn 2025

Forestry | Buildings | Farming | Land Management | Business Support | Leisure & Tourism

A photograph of a forest with tall, slender trees. The foliage is in various stages of autumn, with some leaves turned bright yellow and orange, while others remain green. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue, visible through the canopy. The ground is covered in a dense layer of green ferns and other low-lying vegetation. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a clear day in late summer or early autumn.

RABY

Forestry

Spotlight

Forestry & Estate Maintenance Update from Head Forester

After one of the driest summers in recent years, the Estate's woodlands have moved into November with a strong, if somewhat brief, show of autumn colour. Whilst the dry conditions may not have been ideal for tree growth, this autumn has seen an abundance of seeds in what is known as a mast year. Beech and oak trees across the Park and woodlands have produced a bumper crop of nuts and acorns, promoted by the dry spring, which will have aided pollination and development of the seeds.

A bumper seed crop has numerous benefits for birds and foraging mammals, whilst also providing a valuable source of natural regeneration in the woodlands. After a highly productive winter period for timber harvesting, work has been ongoing over the summer to prepare the felled areas for replanting and to locally scarify some of the soils to improve the potential for this year's seeds and those already in the ground to germinate.

Whilst the dry weather has not been ideal for tree growth, it has allowed the continuation of timber harvesting work with minimal impact on the soils, including clearance of brash and branches as wood chip in addition to the normal range of milling timber, firewood and associated forest products.

Our dedicated in-house Forestry and Maintenance team, along with local contractors, have also made good use of the summer conditions in an extensive programme of improvements to the Estate's infrastructure, which has seen significant upgrades to fences, walls and also the roads around the Park and surrounding areas. As we enter winter, we continue to work on Estate upkeep, improving the resilience of forestry tracks for timber harvesting, and preparing new areas for planting to support biodiversity into the future. As November arrives, our attention turns to the cutting and replanting of Christmas trees.

Geoff Turnbull, Head Forester



An aerial photograph of a rural farmstead. In the foreground, a red tractor is parked in a grassy field. Behind it, a large white two-story house with a dark tiled roof and four chimneys stands next to a smaller white outbuilding. A large, leafy tree is to the right of the house. The farm is surrounded by green fields, some with sheep grazing. In the background, more fields and a few distant houses are visible under a clear sky.

RABY

Buildings

County Durham Project Team Update

Over the summer months, the Projects team have been working hard to renovate several properties across the estate.

The team have recently completed Keverstone Grange and are currently underway with a large-scale refurbishment of Hunt Hall in Forest in Teesdale.

We would like to take the opportunity to welcome Alistair Bradley to the team and congratulate Andrew "Arthur" Graham on his promotion to projects team supervisor.



Alistair Bradley

Shropshire Building Team Update

The team in Shropshire are currently renovating Bluebell, a lovely 4-bedroom detached property with views of the Wrekin. Work is due to be completed in early 2026.

We would also like to welcome Gary Coles to the Shropshire Estate. He has recently joined us as an Estate Joiner, bringing a wealth of experience in workshop joinery. He will be working closely with the team to help maintain the estate, ensuring it continues to thrive for everyone who lives, works and visits here.



Arthur Graham

Compliance and improvement work across the estate continues with works ongoing to septic tanks, water supplies and electrical installations as part of a wider scheme to reduce reactive maintenance in both Shropshire and Durham.



Gary Coles



Bowlees Barn Restoration

Raby Estate has recently completed the restoration of an iconic barn near Bowlees in Upper Teesdale. This was with the support from Durham County Council on behalf of the North Pennines National Landscape Partnership. The estate team have carried out structural repairs and fully restored the building back to its former glory.

The building will now be used as it was originally intended for and provide storage and shelter for livestock.



Keverstone Grange Farmhouse

This property has received new timber windows and doors, a new bathroom, oak flooring refinished, a new septic tank, redecoration and carpets.

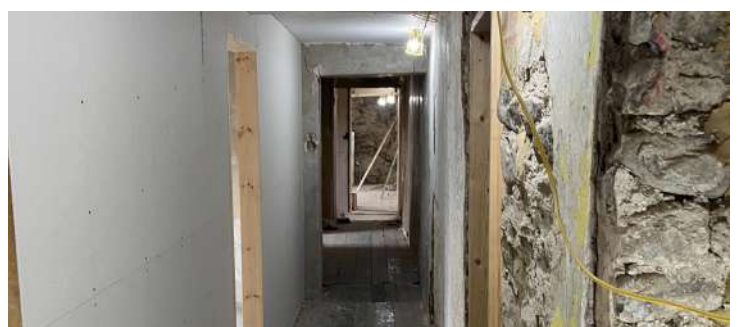
The refurbishment is now complete with a new tenant found within a week, and is now let.

Hunt Hall

Hunt Hall is undergoing a full refurbishment, the property is currently being stripped back to its bare stone walls and completely refitted including a layout change and an addition of an extra bathroom. The property will be rewired, fully re-piped and new heating system installed. This will form a new inglenook stove opening, new kitchen and utility room, fully insulated external walls, new windows and external doors, full house of new interior woodwork, redecoration and carpets.



Hunt Hall in Progress



R A B Y



Stairdrop Housing



East Leaze

A collection of new high quality homes in Staindrop

Raby Homes are delighted to introduce the East Leaze development of new homes at Staindrop, County Durham.

East Leaze takes its name following research into the history of the area in the archives at Raby Castle.

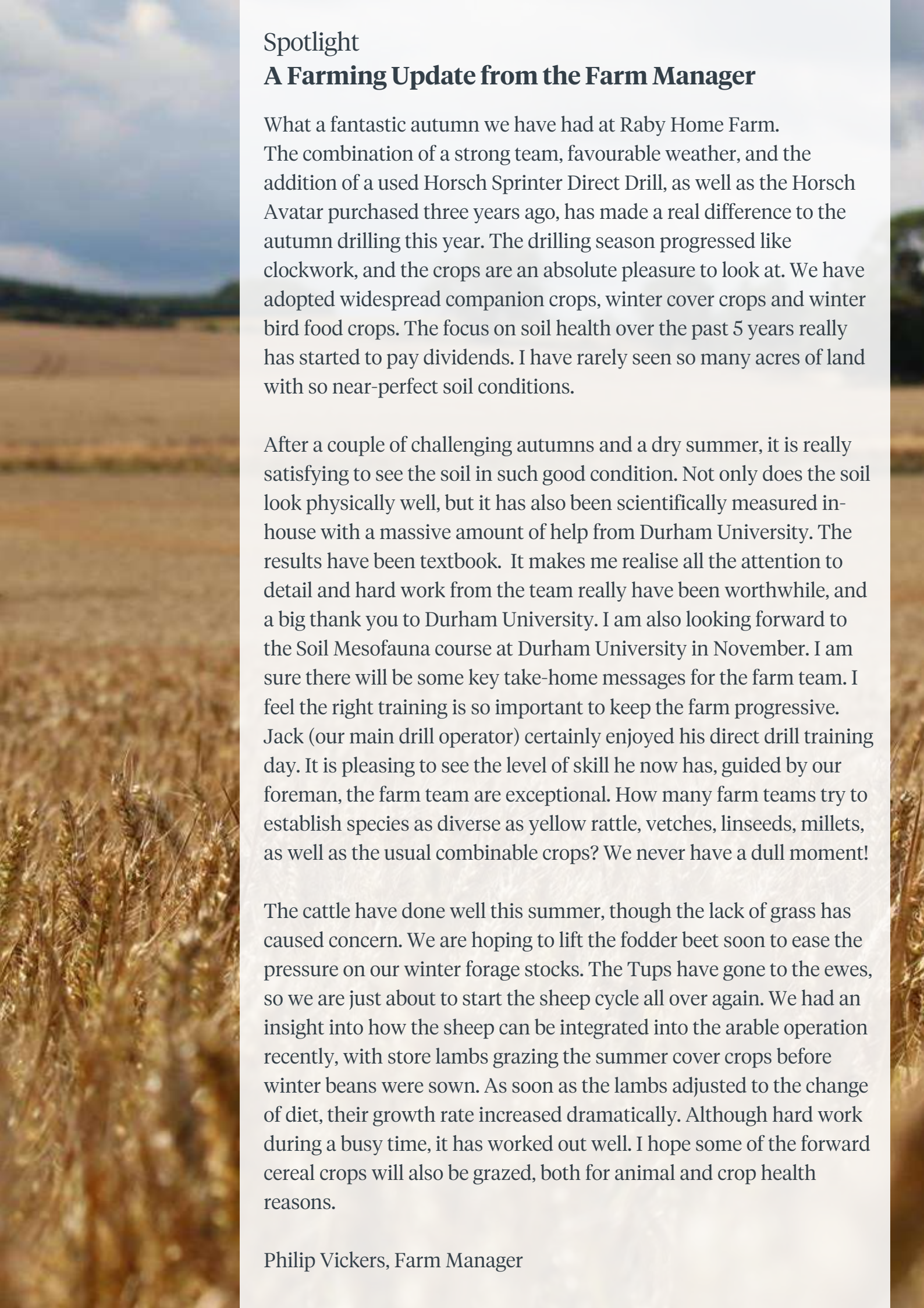
The earliest surviving map of this area dates from 1732 and names the area where the development will be placed as East Leaze. We thought it a respectful nod to the past to use this name whilst also looking forward to an exciting new chapter in local history. New homes in this location will support existing services within Staindrop village and will contribute towards meeting the housing requirements of the County. Over recent decades, we have seen amenities such as shops and pubs lost in many of our villages. New housing will bring more spend to Staindrop to help it thrive – supporting schools and local services. The scheme will deliver high-quality housing (including affordable housing), along with the enhancement of public and open spaces.

The design for the scheme was created by Ben Pentreath, one of the country's leading architectural practices involved in the design of traditionally inspired new developments. Their work seeks to draw from the best of the past, making places that are human scaled, timeless and long-lasting, and yet robustly designed for modern life. We are excited to share news about East Leaze as it develops.

A pastoral landscape featuring a large white and brown cow in the foreground, looking towards the camera. In the background, a herd of black cows is grazing on a grassy hill. The hill is covered in tall, golden-brown grass. A dense line of green trees forms a backdrop on the left side of the image. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

RABY

Farming



Spotlight

A Farming Update from the Farm Manager

What a fantastic autumn we have had at Raby Home Farm. The combination of a strong team, favourable weather, and the addition of a used Horsch Sprinter Direct Drill, as well as the Horsch Avatar purchased three years ago, has made a real difference to the autumn drilling this year. The drilling season progressed like clockwork, and the crops are an absolute pleasure to look at. We have adopted widespread companion crops, winter cover crops and winter bird food crops. The focus on soil health over the past 5 years really has started to pay dividends. I have rarely seen so many acres of land with so near-perfect soil conditions.

After a couple of challenging autumns and a dry summer, it is really satisfying to see the soil in such good condition. Not only does the soil look physically well, but it has also been scientifically measured in-house with a massive amount of help from Durham University. The results have been textbook. It makes me realise all the attention to detail and hard work from the team really have been worthwhile, and a big thank you to Durham University. I am also looking forward to the Soil Mesofauna course at Durham University in November. I am sure there will be some key take-home messages for the farm team. I feel the right training is so important to keep the farm progressive. Jack (our main drill operator) certainly enjoyed his direct drill training day. It is pleasing to see the level of skill he now has, guided by our foreman, the farm team are exceptional. How many farm teams try to establish species as diverse as yellow rattle, vetches, linseeds, millets, as well as the usual combinable crops? We never have a dull moment!

The cattle have done well this summer, though the lack of grass has caused concern. We are hoping to lift the fodder beet soon to ease the pressure on our winter forage stocks. The Tups have gone to the ewes, so we are just about to start the sheep cycle all over again. We had an insight into how the sheep can be integrated into the arable operation recently, with store lambs grazing the summer cover crops before winter beans were sown. As soon as the lambs adjusted to the change of diet, their growth rate increased dramatically. Although hard work during a busy time, it has worked out well. I hope some of the forward cereal crops will also be grazed, both for animal and crop health reasons.

Philip Vickers, Farm Manager

A large, leafy tree dominates the upper half of the frame, its branches spreading across the top. A wooden fence with a cross-hatch pattern runs horizontally across the middle ground. On the left side, the sun is partially obscured by the tree's leaves, creating a bright sunburst effect. The background shows a grassy field and distant hills under a clear sky.

RABY

*Land
Management*



Departmental Update

Black Grouse Translocation

Raby has participated in a recent Black Grouse Translocation project orchestrated by The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust and funded by Natural England's Species Recovery Fund. The project had two main aims – to understand more about the species especially maternal/brood foraging habits and secondly to translocate 20 birds from their stronghold in the North Pennines to locations in the North York Moors where they were once widespread. The donor and recipient sites were selected on the basis of good stable donor populations and recipient locations that were able to provide the habitat and management practices to support the species.

In 2024, 10 males and 10 females were caught from a number of locations in the North Pennines and re-released. A number of these birds were radio tagged to aid the research project.

Raby have been one of the main donors of birds into the translocation project. Black Grouse are a symbol of Raby, they are an iconic North Pennines bird and a barometer of conservation efforts carried out by the Estate, our tenants, partner organisations and our neighbours.

We are pleased to report that the first year of the project has been a resounding success, the translocated males established a number of Leks, the iconic breeding ritual that has not been seen in the North York Moors in living memory. All of the female birds attempted nesting and for the first time in over 180 years black grouse successfully bred in the North York Moors with the successful fledging of chicks.

We work very closely with the GWCT in counting and monitoring black grouse populations on the Estate and establishing their annual success. We hold very long term data on the species which is really important when dealing with any species or habitat.

Following a very successful 2025 breeding season for Black Grouse on the Estate, the Estate will be donating a further batch of birds to the project with the second release designed to bolster that of the first and cement the success of the North York Moors Colony.

We will monitor the project closely and hope to bring you more updates on its continued success.

Original article featured on:
www.gwct.org.uk/blogs/news/2025/may/black-grouse-lekking-on-the-north-york-moors-for-the-first-time-in-living-memory/

Tenant Spotlight

High Nature Value Farming Awards

The High Nature Value Farming Awards is in its third year, recognising the great work taking place on farms across Teesdale and Swaledale. Working with farmers and land managers is an integral part of the Tees-Swale programme, and it is these farmers that were celebrated in the 2025 Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected High Nature Value Farming Awards.

Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected is funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund with thanks to The National Lottery players, including providing the £500 for the gold award winners.

The High Nature Value Farming Award, highlights farms which have consistently shown best practice in looking after the land, and protecting important habitats and species. Two Raby tenants have won key awards at this year's event.

Richard Wearmouth, Middle End Farm, is the High Nature Value Farming Award gold winner, recognising long-term low intensity management and protecting nature and the natural environment.

The Nature Recovery Category, recognises farms that have transformed the way they are managed, turning them into a place where nature has a chance to thrive.

Edwin Wood, Woodside Farm, wins the gold award winner in the Nature Recovery Category for his commitment to restoring field boundaries on the farm and enhancing other areas for wildlife.

Original article featured on: National Pennines
National Landscape

www.northpennines.org.uk/what_we_do/tees-swale-naturally-connected/farming-awards-winners-2025/



Sir John Lawton and Edwin Wood

RABY



Business Support



Spotlight **Spirit Shines in Successful Litter Pick**

On 6th October 2025, the Castle grounds became the backdrop for a heart-warming display of community spirit as Employees gathered for a litter pick that proved productive. Organised by the Business Support Team, the event drew enthusiastic participants from across departments, all eager to contribute.

In just over an hour, the group managed to collect approximately 18 bags of litter, a testament to their dedication and teamwork. The effort not only helped restore the natural beauty of the area surrounding the Castle grounds but also highlighted the power of collective action in tackling environmental challenges.

Volunteers arrived early, armed with gloves, bin bags, and a shared sense of purpose. As the team set out, laughter and conversation filled the air, turning what could have been a routine clean-up into a fun experience.

This initiative not only addressed the immediate issue of litter, but also served as a reminder of the importance of community stewardship and environmental responsibility.

Participants expressed their satisfaction with the event, noting the benefits of fresh air, good company, and the joy of making a tangible difference. Many said they would be keen to take part in future clean-ups.

As the morning wrapped up, volunteers posed for a group photo along with a photo of the collected bin bags — a visual symbol of what can be achieved when people unite for a common cause.

The Business Support Team extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone involved and would like to encourage others to join future efforts to keep the road to the Castle free from litter and a welcoming path to all who visit.

Spotlight

Raby Estates Office Teams Rally in Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

In a heartwarming show of solidarity, the teams at Raby Estates Office united to support Breast Cancer Awareness this October.

Staff members donned vibrant pink clothing and accessories, transforming the workplace into a sea of pink to honour the cause and spark conversations around breast health.

Adding a sweet touch to the initiative, Business Support Manager Lesley baked an array of delightful cakes, which were offered to colleagues in exchange for small donations. The treats proved popular, helping raise funds whilst bringing smiles to the office.

The event not only highlighted the importance of awareness and early detection, but also showcased the power of community spirit within the workplace. Raby Estates continues to champion meaningful causes, with this latest effort reinforcing their commitment to making a difference.



Spotlight

Supporting Second Hand September

During September, the Raby Estates Office proudly joined the Second-Hand September movement, embracing sustainability and giving back to our community.

As part of this initiative, we collected and donated preloved clothing directly to The Firefighters Charity, which provides vital support to the incredible individuals in our emergency services. Across the teams we collected 5 bin bags full of clothing ready to be given a second chance.

By participating, we've taken meaningful steps toward reducing waste and promoting reuse, while also honouring the everyday heroes who keep us safe. We're proud to be part of a cause that makes a real difference.

David Bell - Tyne and Wear Rescue service who collected and delivered the bags on behalf of the charity.



Spotlight

Climb of Life 2025

Raby Estates supports an annual charity event to raise money for the Institute of Cancer Research by participating in a “Human Mountain Endeavour” on the Lakeland fells. Last year a team of walkers from Raby successfully completed a trek in the Buttermere fells and raised around £6,000.

One third of us will be touched by cancer in our lifetime. The Institute of Cancer Research <https://www.icr.ac.uk/> is a charitable academic working body with over 300 scientists and has taken more drugs into clinical trials in the last decade than any other organisation worldwide. As you may recall, Professor Paul Workman from the Institute addressed our annual staff meeting earlier this year to explain more about their wonderful work and staggering achievements in the field of cancer treatment. We are therefore proud to be supporting such a worthy cause once again this year.

This annual event involves teams from businesses located across the north of England ascending Lakeland’s highest mountains in early winter conditions. The event has raised more than £1.9 million for the Institute and other charities over the past 37 years. This year’s event takes place on Friday 14th November and with your help we would like to make this another record-breaking year. We’ve been given the challenge of climbing Bowfell and Crinkle Crags at the head of the Great Langdale valley in the heart of the Lake District.

To support Team Raby and donate to a fantastic cause
www.justgiving.com/page/rabyestates2025



Raby Estates

Warm Welcome 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 parklands at Raby Castle.

We're excited to welcome new members to the team: Deborah Thompson, Property Administrator | Alistair Bradley, Skilled Tradesperson | Chloe Reed, House Keeper | Gary Coles, Workshop Joiner | Hannah Evans, Marketing Executive | Harry Falshaw, Kitchen Porter | Joanne Hart, Administrative Assistant | Kurtis Scanlan, Facilities Maintenance Assistant | Marie -Louise King, Visitor Welcome Host | Morgan Close, Food and Beverage Operations Manager | Nicole Williams, Events Executive | Rebecca Wilkinson, General Assistant | Ty Morgan, Skilled Tradesperson and Wendy Scott, House Keeper.

Celebrating Decades of Dedication at Raby Estates.



After decades of dedicated service, Judith, an integral member of the Raby Estates property team has bid farewell to her colleagues and stepped into a well-earned retirement.

Judith has been a pillar of the Property team, known not only for her professionalism and deep knowledge of the estate but also for the warmth and kindness she brought to every interaction. Her attention to detail and commitment to excellence have left a lasting mark on colleagues and tenants alike.

Over the years, Judith built genuine friendships with many of the estate's tenants, always going the extra mile to support them with care and compassion.

As she begins this well-earned retirement, we thank Judith for everything she has contributed and wish her a future filled with happiness, relaxation, and time spent with loved ones.

From all of us - thank you Judith.

A photograph of a covered market walkway. The roof is made of dark wooden beams with a complex lattice structure. The walkway is lined with stalls on both sides, each covered by a red and white striped awning. People are walking through the walkway, and the scene is lit with warm, ambient light.

RABY

Leisure & Tourism

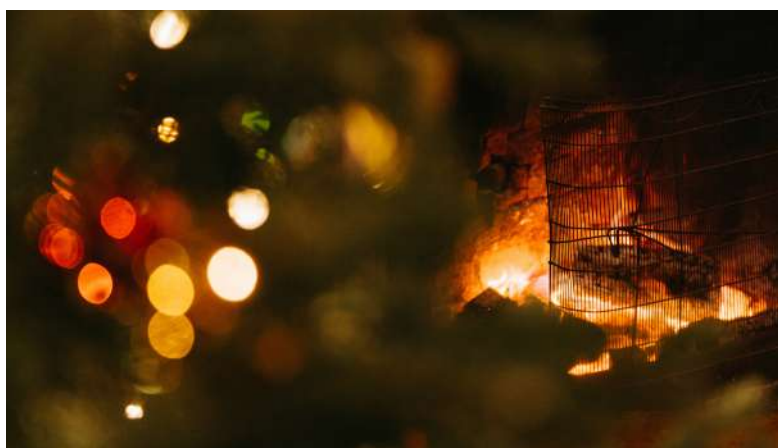


Raby Castle to open for new Christmas Experience for the first time in 50 years

Raby Castle will be opening its doors during the festive period for the first time in five decades to show the castle decorated for Christmas, designed by custodian and creative director, Lady Barnard.



This will be a chance for visitors to experience how the Vane family enjoyed Christmas at the Castle and see the rooms beautifully decorated as they would have been in the past, with the family's traditional gifts, flowers and sumptuous Christmas trees.



The journey will take visitors through eight rooms on the ground floor, telling the story of Christmas Day at the castle, from the early morning thrill of opening a Christmas stocking to an evening of elegant dining and Christmas games, featuring an impressive table setting ready for a spectacular festive meal.

www.raby.co.uk/events/raby-castle-at-christmas



The Winner of the Award for Re-Use of a Georgian Buildings

Raby Castle, Park and Garden's recent development, known as 'The Rising' won in the Georgian Group Architectural Awards for the reuse of a Georgian Building.

Part of 'The Rising' included a magnificent suite of 18th-century equestrian buildings which have been fully restored as part of a wider regeneration project. Over the last two years, three beautiful buildings have been given a future. The Grade II* listed Coach House and Stables by John Carr of York, originally housing carriage horses, carriages and grooms' accommodation, had latterly become a small café and shop. The Riding School used to provide cover for events in inclement weather. Finally, the Grade II* listed Dutch Barn, a hidden architectural gem, has been restored after falling out of use over recent years.

All three buildings have been sympathetically renovated and repurposed by the Raby workforce supported by specialist consultants and contractors, to high standards, using appropriate materials from locally-sourced slate to salvaged estate stonework.

To achieve this, the Raby in-house team was expanded under the supervision of experienced heritage building specialists. Full roof and fabric repairs, new flooring, including areas of underfloor heating drawing from local ground-sourced heat, careful interior design, and landscaping in the surrounding area using largely local reclaimed materials have created three public-facing spaces at the heart of a transformed visitor experience. Built for the Earls of Darlington, keen horsemen, hunters, race-horse breeders and trainers, these buildings have been placed into their historic context and can now be shared with visitors.

www.georgiangroup.org.uk/2025/11/05/winners-of-the-georgian-group-architectural-awards-announced



A Collaboration with Local Floral Designer with a focus on Sustainability

Raby Castle, Park and Gardens and Durham-based Periwinkle Barn have joined forces to create a new floristry residency and bespoke workshops for visitors.

The new collaboration will be hosted within The Conservatory in Raby's Walled Gardens, where Deborah Simpson Boston, a floral designer and owner of Periwinkle Barn, has worked with Raby's team of experts to create a beautifully designed flower pop-up shop.

The retail space, featuring seasonal bouquets, tools and books about gardening and floristry, will be within the central space of The Conservatory, alongside an exhibition area detailing the history of Raby's 18th century Walled Gardens and a space where Deborah will host a series of workshops on selected dates.

Deborah said: "Everything is so beautiful and well thought out here at Raby – it really is a dream place to work with its calming and soothing atmosphere. I hosted workshops at Raby Castle in the summer which was a fantastic introduction and I'm really looking forward to my ongoing residency here for the next few months. The winter period will bring seasonal workshops including wreath making, tablescape and so much more."

Deborah returned to the Durham countryside after studying and working in Brighton and London and has been growing delicate and romantic stems from her 400-year-old barn since 2022. She has over ten years of experience in event flowers and created the flower display for the 2025 Royal Maundy Service at Durham Cathedral, which was attended by His Majesty King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

With a passion for British flowers, sustainability is also a keen focus for Deborah at Periwinkle Barn. She said: "I've made the conscious decision to work as sustainably as possible, growing and using seasonal British stems from spring to autumn. From late autumn to winter, I source stems which are as sustainable as possible without chemicals or pesticides.

"My ethos closely aligns with Raby's – there's a wonderful synergy between us both and it's brilliant to work with like-minded people."

www.raby.co.uk/events/raby-x-periwinkle-barn



R A B Y

Estate Adventures

The most unique Gift



Deer Safaris

Raby Castle



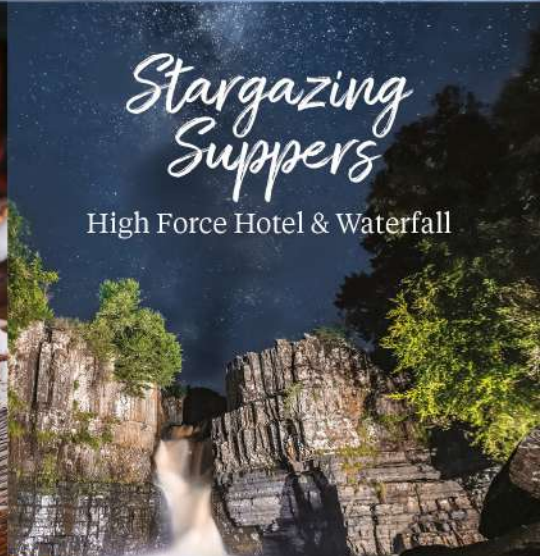
Fireside Afternoon Tea

and Waterfall Walk
High Force Hotel



Stargazing Suppers

High Force Hotel & Waterfall



Moorland Experience

Raby Estates



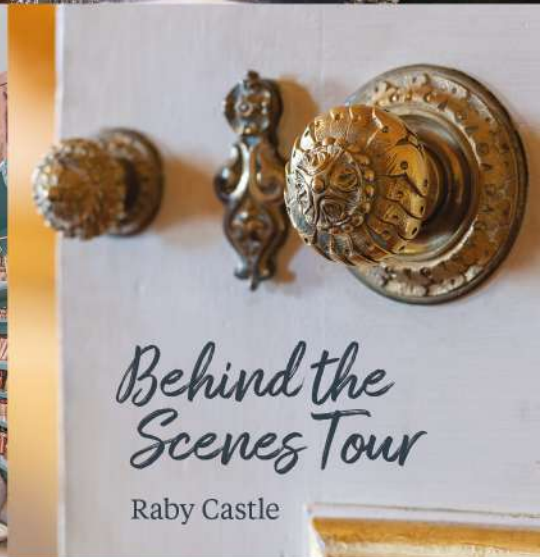
Cookery Masterclass

Raby Castle



Behind the Scenes Tour

Raby Castle



And so many more...

www.raby.co.uk/gift-vouchers





R A B Y

What's On

It's time to open the doors on a packed Autumn and Winter programme across the Raby Estate

Leisure & Tourism

Upcoming Events



Glasshouse Afternoon Tea
the Vinery
Available Daily



Horrible Histories Takeover at Raby Castle
Raby Castle
4th October - 9th November



Stargazing at Raby Castle

Raby Castle
15th, 22nd November, 13th December 2025 | 17th
January, 24th January 2026



Festive Stargazing Suppers

High Force Hotel & Waterfall
2th, 13th, 19th & 20th December 2025



Meet Mr and Mrs Claus in the Yuletide Yurt

Raby Castle
7th, 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st December



Sunset Garden Photography Workshop

Raby Castle
Saturday 15th November

Leisure & Tourism

Upcoming Events



Raby Remembers

Raby Castle

Sunday 9th & Tuesday 11th of November 2025



Christmas Shopping Evening

Raby Castle

Thursday 13th November



Festive Afternoon Tea

High Force Hotel

7th, 14th & 21st December



Luxury Christmas Wreaths with Periwinkle Barn

Raby Castle

5th, 6th, 12th, 13th December



The Plotters' Forest Enchanted Christmas Trail

Raby Castle

Selected dates: 15th November – 4th January



Christmas Market

Raby Castle

28th November - 30th November

Leisure & Tourism

Upcoming Events



Christmas Pudding Cookery Masterclass

Raby Castle

Friday 21st November & Sunday 7th December



Festive Afternoon Tea in The Vinery

Raby Castle

Monday to Saturday in December, 29th Dec - 4th January



Raby Christmas Trees

Raby Castle

Starting 22nd November



Watch the Deer Feeding in the Park

Raby Castle

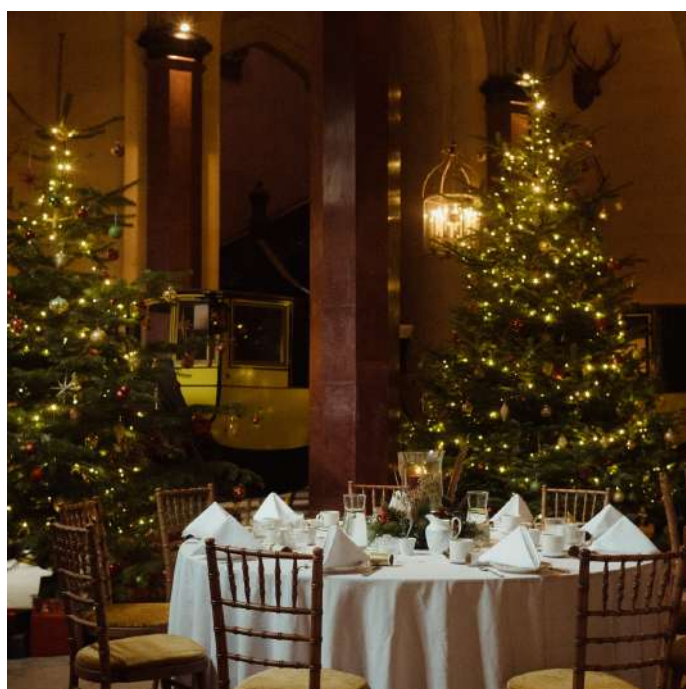
This Winter



Raby Castle at Christmas Tour

Raby Castle

Selected dates from the 22nd of November - 4th January.



Festive Afternoon Tea at Raby Castle

Raby Castle

3rd, 4th, 5th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 16th, 17th & 18th December

Leisure & Tourism

Upcoming Events



Advent Candle Wreath with Periwinkle Barn

Raby Castle
Sunday 23rd November



Tablescape with Periwinkle Barn

Raby Castle
Saturday 22nd November



Stargazing Suppers

High Force Hotel & Waterfall
January 2nd/3rd/4th-March 2026



Raby Castle at Christmas by Candlelight

Raby Castle
Saturday 13th & 20th December



New Year's Eve Dining at High Force Hotel

High Force Hotel
31st December



New Year's Charity Day

Raby Castle, Park and Gardens
1st January



Enquires

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01833 660888

reception@raby.co.uk

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Darlington, County Durham, DL2 3NF

