Welcome to our Autumn Estate Newsletter, which we have filled with news of all the Estate’s recent plans, community events and developments.

We hope you take full advantage of our new loyalty scheme and all the perks and rewards that it brings. There is so much to enjoy on the Estate, whether living here or visiting, we hope you find some inspiration in the enclosed What’s On guide.

This is also an opportunity to wish our Rural Estate Manager, Lucinda Riddell, all the best as she moves on to a new position in Easingwold. Good luck Lucinda and thank you for all your hard work! Hugo Mallaby (as pictured) will be replacing Lou on a full time basis and we look forward to him joining us in January.

Kind regards,

Hugo Mallaby (as pictured)

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Loyalty Scheme Launch

As a local resident of Swinton Estate, you are warmly invited to join our new “Swinton Rewards” scheme. This is a loyalty programme that rewards you with points for every pound you spend at the Hotel, Country Club & Spa, Cookery School and Swinton Bivouac. These points can be redeemed at any of these places* – and as a launch offer to Swinton residents we are enclosing your membership card which has already been credited with 200 points (worth £10). All you need to do is activate your card at the Estate Shop, just in time for some Christmas shopping!!

You are invited!

To celebrate the launch of Swinton Rewards, we are hosting a drinks party for all local members in the Terrace at 6.00pm on Friday 29th November. Please come and join us, you can meet the Estate team and also some of our new arrivals from the Northern Fishing School and EJ Churchill. On the night we’ll also treat you to a launch party voucher for a 10% discount at the Estate Shop, which you can collect when you activate your card**

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* Please note that if you are a Spa member, a separate scheme applies and membership fees are excluded
**Valid until 24th December 2019. 10% discount can’t be redeemed in conjunction with the points.
Not available in conjunction with any other offer.
CONSERVATION ON SWINTON ESTATE

**Wildwatch on Swinton Estate**

The 20,000 acres of natural landscape on the Estate is home to many protected and at risk species. The gamekeeper team on the Estate ensure that these are safeguarded by protecting habitats and controlling predators.

Since 2017, the Estate has taken part in the Wild Watch Project, a Nidderdale AONB initiative. This gathers location data for over 70 target wildlife species from moths and reptiles to red list bird species and helps for planning of future conservation work.

In 2018, the Estate recorded seven out of nine target wading bird species (Curlew, Oystercatcher, Dunlin, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Redshank and Snipe) and four out of five ‘red list’ farmland birds (Skylark, Song Thrush, Linnet and Lessor Redpoll). The estate also documented eight species of bumblebee and over 150 moth species, including the rare Gem and Blomer’s Rivulet.

One significant arrival to the Swinton Estate this year has been Frank the Hen Harrier who has taken up residence on the moors. He was first spotted in December 2018, and Natural England have been tracking his behaviour and flight patterns throughout this time, with the assistance of a tracker and regular sightings reported by the Estate’s gamekeepers.

2019 has proved to be a highly successful year for Hen Harrier breeding, with 15 nests in England (nearly all of them on managed grouse moors) and the highest success rate being on the Swinton Estate. Congratulations to Frank who is now the proud father of five chicks!

**OUT AND ABOUT ON THE ESTATE**

**Were you there?**

A glimpse at some of the events that have been going on at Swinton over the last few months...

**Woodland & Walking festival**

From woodland yoga, to foraging, to a guided walk to the bothy on Ilton moor – this was a beautiful day to be outdoors and enjoying the countryside. We’ll keep you posted on plans for next year’s event!

**Bonfire Night at Bivouac**

Marshmallows around the fire and sparklers in the best of tradition, to celebrate our annual Bonfire Night and the end of the summer season at Bivouac.

**Long Service Award Lunch**

A celebration lunch was held for 35 dedicated staff who, between them, have worked on the Estate for over 400 years. What an amazing achievement – and from all parts of the Estate including gamekeeping, forestry, hotel and Dykes Hill. A special mention for Steve Abbott, currently on 42 years!
Christmas is coming!! The Estate Shop is now fully stocked with Christmas decorations and gifts. Stocking fillers include novelty phone charges, edible baubles, luxury soaps, keyrings, scarves and kitchen gadgets.

For someone who’s worth it, there is a huge range in store of luxury candles and bath and body products – and from hip flasks, dog beds to flat caps we’d got all bases covered!

If you are still in need of inspiration, gift vouchers can be purchased at the shop. These can be for any Swinton experience - from an Afternoon Tea, to a Cookery Course, a treatment in the Spa, an annual Parkland pass, dinner in The Terrace, a stay in a Tree Lodge at Bivouac and plenty more...

Located at the entrance to Swinton Country Club & Spa | Open daily 8am-8pm

This is the time of year when the walled garden is put back in order, and you will see that some of the plants have their winter “coats” of sheep fleece on – this keeps the frost off and gently releases nutrients into the ground as it rots.

We spend most of our time clearing up and planning for the next season, which includes planting out the spring flowering bulbs and some early cropping vegetables.

With the colder weather comes some lovely crisp winter days. Although the autumn colour is nearly over, we can look forward to the first dusting of ice – and on a wet day, make sure to head to Quarry Gill for a view of the waterfall. A trip to the Terrace for a hot chocolate afterwards is almost compulsory! An entrance fee applies, but access is complimentary for Sunday Lunch and Afternoon Tea guests at the hotel and Spa Members, and an annual pass is available for regular walkers.
Well done to Helen Rodney (from the Reservations team) for walking the 84 mile route along the Hadrian’s Wall path – all in just 3 days. Each mile walked represented a male life lost in the UK each week to suicide, and for many of the team it was one of the hardest challenges they have faced both mentally and physically. Their hard work and efforts were well rewarded with £5,200 raised which will raise awareness and help prevent suicides in rural and agricultural communities.

Kell Bank School

We were delighted to welcome residents from Maple Creek and Kell Bank pupils, teachers and parents to The Terrace recently, to view their art exhibition. As part of a Dementia Forward initiative, the pupils partnered up with Maple Creek residents to create six wonderful canvasses. A further collaboration and exhibition is planned for early next year.

Grewelthorpe School

As part of their campaign to raise funds for an extra classroom, we have been supporting the Grewelthorpe FROGs with their events. So far over £5,000 has been raised – well done!

You might have seen their lovely Peter Rabbit trail in the woodland at Bivouac this summer. More recently, they hosted a Spa Party, with drinks and dinner in the Terrace followed by exclusive use of the pools and thermal suite.

Masham was on the map in time for the UCI Road World Championship this year – with the land art project. Whilst the inspiration came from Masham School and Arti- sOn Crafts, the Estate provided and site and all materials. Thrilled to see that is has been shortlisted for the Yorkshire 2019 Land Art Competition!

At half term, the FROGS team held the first ever Cyclocross bike event at Swinton Bivouac. It was a wonderful day with over 200 riders of all ages.

Acorns Pre-School Festive Trail

Head up to Bivouac in the Christmas holidays for a family outing. Acorns will be running a Festive Trail that starts at the café!

Swinton Foundation

The Swinton Foundation is a charitable trust that supports charities, artists, entrepreneurs and communities in the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding area, helping regenerate the rural landscape and with the Swinton Estate providing a base as a catalyst for further enterprise and development. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like our support.
NEW FACES IN THE ESTATE OFFICE

Wendy Harrison • Estate Secretary
Wendy joined the Rural Office at Swinton in July 2019 as the Estate Secretary from Bedale High School where she worked previously as the Head’s PA for a number of years.

Stuart Jones • Trainee Surveyor
Stuart has joined the Rural Office at Swinton to assist with the management of the diverse residential, agricultural and commercial sporting portfolio.

Rebecca Pitchforth • Office & Accounts Administrator
Rebecca joined the Rural Office at Swinton in April 2019 as the Office & Accounts Administrator. She has worked within administration for the duration of her career and has lots of experience across this area.

Dan Waterson • Estate Maintenance
Dan lives in Bedale and has worked in various trades over the years, maintaining and restoring properties. He joins the maintenance team with a very useful range of skills and experience.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Brian Lofthouse, Forestry & Grounds Department
Length of Service: 33 years

Brian is one of the Estate’s longest serving employees, joining the Forestry department in 1986. He started his career with the Forestry Commission and then, following a brief interlude as a taxi driver in Harrogate, joined the team at Swinton. At that time, Swinton has begun to buy back some of their larger woodlands which had been leased to the Forestry Commission.

Brian will have seen many changes on the Estate over the years, including the installation of our carbon neutral wood-chip boiler. The Forestry department has also expanded to include the management of the grounds at Swinton Park and Bivouac alongside almost 2,000 acres of woodland and amenity trees across Swinton’s 20,000 acres. Brian has been a pivotal member of the team during this time, his knowledge of the Estate being invaluable.

COMING SOON...
Rising from the ashes, the Deer House is taking shape again! The team from Stone Edge have been doing an amazing job restoring the Deer House to its former glory. Due to complete early summer next year, we can’t wait!
Nolon Stacey has been renting the gallery in the corner of the market square in Masham for over six years. It’s just behind Johnny Bagdad’s café and below the Snooker Club (also Estate tenants).

Nolon specialises in portraits of animals and rural scenery, using charcoal and pencil, and his brilliantly detailed style is instantly recognisable. Although not formally trained, he has drawn all his life. He exhibits widely in Yorkshire and has written three books on drawing animals. His gallery also hosts works by other Yorkshire artists, with a focus on wildlife.

52 Market Pl, Masham, Ripon HG4 4EF
www.nolonstacey.com • 07887 812392

The Forestry department are going to be busy over the next few months, carrying out essential roadside works and replanting around the Estate.

A great opportunity to own a period cottage with good sized gardens, front and rear, in a rural hamlet within 2.5 miles of Masham. The property is in need of updating which has been reflected in the asking price, making this an excellent opportunity for someone to put their own stamp on it. It would make a lovely permanent home or holiday home, well placed being within 1.5 miles of the Swinton Park Hotel, a luxury Grade II* castle set in beautiful parkland grounds with a recently opened and highly acclaimed Spa and Golf Course.

A complete refurbishment in 2020 is planned for several rental houses that are currently vacant. Please let the Estate Office know if you are looking for a property on the Estate, preference is given to applicants who have a local connection to the area.

The last year has been a busy one for the maintenance team at the Estate Office, delivering an extensive programme of property inspections and repairs on both farm buildings and residential homes. Further investment is planned for 2020, and the decision was made to sell a select few of the Estate houses this year in order to reinvest and improve standards.
We are very proud to announce an exclusive partnership with Buckinghamshire-based shooting school and largest British owned gunmaker in the UK, EJ Churchill, to create the EJ Churchill Shooting Ground. This will be EJ Churchill’s first venture outside of their multi award-winning shooting ground at High Wycombe.

Set to open in 2020, EJ Churchill will take on the operation at Warren Gill, which has been run as a shooting school by Dave and Anne Elgie since 2003. Plans include an upgrade of existing facilities, and the Elgies, together with their son Ross, a national Olympic Skeet competitor and award-winning shooting instructor, will continue their involvement with the school.

It was another successful summer of cricket for the Swinton team, with the weather being particularly kind. It was a pleasure to see our touring teams again, and to see so many of the younger generation joining the team, including William and Tim CL.

Marina Gibson has recently launched the Northern Fishing School, with its headquarters in the Estate Yard. Marina offers tuition for all levels of experience, including beginners and school groups.

Home Lake, in the Parkland, has been dredged and stocked with trout for casting lessons. Guided tuition is available on the Estate on the River Ure (where an encouraging number of salmon have recently been caught) and the River Burn.

If you are interested in booking tuition, please visit northernfishingschool.com. Rates start at £95/session. If you would like to fish independently, please use Fishpal to book to fish on the Ure or at Leighton Reservoir.
GET READY TO PARTY

Whether it’s getting ready for the festive season or a special occasion coming up, we have a Party Ready winter package available at The Cottage.

Feel fabulous and ready to celebrate in style, with a Spray Tan, Gel Manicure and Express Pedicure – all for only £80. Available throughout December 2019.

COUNTRY CLUB & SPA MEMBERSHIP

Make time for your wellness and rejuvenate, relax and be healthy in the beautiful surroundings at the Country Club & Spa.

Membership starts with a complimentary Wellness Health Check and Personal Training Session, and includes unlimited classes in the Studio, use of the Gym, an annual Parkland pass and access to the amazing Pools and Thermal Suite. You also have the benefit of discounted rates at The Cottage & Treatment Suite, Samuel’s & Terrace restaurants and accommodation at Swinton Park and Swinton Bivouac.

If you would like to have a tour of the Spa and to discuss the membership options available, please do not hesitate to contact us.

WE’RE FINALISTS

We are delighted to announce that Swinton Country Club & Spa has been shortlisted for the Best Country Retreat at the prestigious Good Spa Awards.

BIVOUAC IN WINTER

Situated in one of the most picturesque settings in the Yorkshire Dales, the Druid’s Temple and surrounding plantation offers miles of quiet walks with views out across the surrounding Swinton Estate, along with a mountain bike trail designed to suit all levels of experience.

The café at Bivouac welcomes walkers, cyclists, families and friends. With wholesome snacks and simple dishes, drop by for a coffee, cake, a light lunch, or enjoy a delicious meal in this unique setting – and take time to enjoy the views too! Dogs welcome, of course, and the mountain bike trail remains open throughout the winter.

WINTER BIVOUAC CAFÉ OPENING

Please note the café at Bivouac is closed mid-week from 6th January-13th February. During the winter months (outside of school holidays) there is a more limited daytime menu of light snacks and refreshments served in the Long Barn.

Please note: A parking charge applies to cars and users of the bike trails.