

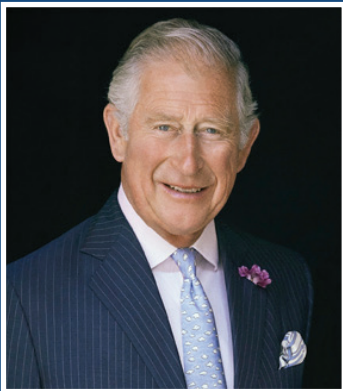


# DUCHY of LANCASTER

## Tenant Newsletter - Yorkshire Survey

Welcome to the 2024 edition of our newsletter for tenants across the Yorkshire Survey. We hope that you will find this a useful and informative read, and an opportunity to learn more about members of the wider Duchy family and community. Recent years have proved challenging for many, with first the Covid-19 pandemic and attendant lockdowns, then the extreme weather brought about as a result of climate change and now ongoing concerns around the spiralling cost of essentials such as food, fuel and fertiliser. However, by working together and supporting each other, we believe that can continue to make positive progress in critical areas such as our physical and mental health, emotional wellbeing and personal productivity.

### HIS MAJESTY THE KING, DUKE OF LANCASTER



In September 2022, on His accession to the throne, His Majesty King Charles III also became Duke of Lancaster. As a lifelong advocate of environmental sustainability and caring for the land, the Duke is not only hugely knowledgeable about the theory of sustainability, but also has practical, first-hand experience of regenerative farming methodologies. He believes wholeheartedly that we have a duty of care both towards both the preservation of the planet and to the generations of people who will succeed us. In June last year, on His first estate visit since the coronation, His Majesty met a number of His Duchy farming tenants from across our Yorkshire estates. During the visit, He toured a number of farms and explored the neighbouring woodland,



before attending a small reception hosted by the Green family at Fields Farm. Here, His Majesty was able to meet and chat informally to His farming tenants on matters of mutual interest. As Duke of Lancaster, The King takes an active interest in the lives of His Duchy tenants and receives regular reports of your activities, ambitions and achievements. He continues to care passionately about both the environment and the future of farming in the UK, and will continue to actively encourage His tenants to introduce sustainable farming practices which will protect and improve the land for the long-term benefit of us all.

### Newbridge Woods - Urgent Tree Safety Works Completed



At the start of the year, we began urgent safety works in Newbridge Woods on our Pickering Estate. The works, which were carefully scoped, monitored and agreed in advance with the local authority, had to be undertaken in order to remove diseased and dangerous ash trees from the woodland. Felling these diseased and dying trees not only protects public safety, it also provides us with an opportunity to create a more biodiverse woodland in this area. We plan to restock by planting a variety of species such as oak, holly and hazel here. This increase in the number of tree species present in the wood will provide greater resilience against disease, insect, and climate change in the future. We are aware that some local residents expressed concern at the time regarding the closure of a number of much-loved public footpaths. We are pleased to report that these are now reopen and the area restored with fresh Spring growth, bringing new life back into the woodland for all to enjoy.



As many of you know, Nathan Thompson CVO, has decided to stand down as CEO of the Duchy of Lancaster after 11 years at the helm. Nathan will hand over the reins to Alastair Martin, CVO in July 2024. Alastair is extremely knowledgeable, having served as Secretary and Keeper of the Records for the Duchy of Cornwall since 2013. In 2023, he joined the Duchy Council and currently chairs our Rural Committee. He is looking forward to meeting you all!





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### Meet the Team:

Our Senior Estates Surveyor Archie Rose leads on the management of our Yorkshire Survey, supported by Estates Surveyor Olivia Mayo and of course our Administrator Robyn Bebbington, Head of Rural Mark Coombs and the wider Duchy team based at Lancaster Castle. Both Archie and Olivia will already be known to many of you. Please contact either of them if you have any queries or concerns regarding your tenancy or your property at any time.



## The Duchy Farming Family: Making Farming More Sustainable



As part of our ongoing drive to encourage knowledge-sharing and awareness of regenerative farming methodologies, we are organising a series of 'A Pie and A Pint' nights across our estates. These evenings are designed to provide tenants with a relaxed and convivial atmosphere where they spend an evening among friends and listen to some first-hand experience from invited speakers on subjects relevant to their business.

We have also introduced a regular email group 'The Duchy Farming Family' and invited our farmers to submit any suggestions on topics they would like to see included. We continue to offer membership of the BASE UK information network free of charge and are actively encouraging our farming tenants to partner with organisations such as Pastures for Life (Pfli) and Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) to co-host events of mutual interest on their farms.

Initiatives such as the Goathland Moor West Partnership, which brings together our farming and shoot tenants, common rights graziers and representatives from Natural England to ensure the ongoing protection and improvement of our moorland, is a good example of how effective we can be when we come together in common cause. By sharing both your knowledge and your first-hand experience of what works and what doesn't in very practical terms with regard to your diverse businesses, we can not only put our sustainability ambitions into practice, but make a positive difference for future generations. It's up to us all to play our part.



## Improving The Energy Efficiency Of Our Historic Homes



Cloughton village lies at the heart of one of our oldest Yorkshire estates and forms part of the Duchy's ancient inheritance. The High Street comprises 20 Duchy-owned properties, many of which have been occupied by the same tenant for decades, and our ownership is clearly identified by the dark blue colour of each of the front doors.



50 High Street is one such property. A three-bedroomed cottage, it was originally built some 250 years ago, using traditional materials and methodologies. This meant that its energy efficiency performance was poor by today's standards and when the existing tenant moved out, we took the opportunity to address this, replacing single glazed windows with hardwood double glazed units, fitting sustainable wood-based floor, wall and roof insulation throughout, re-using the existing roofing pantiles wherever possible and installing a more efficient boiler and replacement radiators. The net result was an improvement in the property's energy performance rating from 'F' to 'C' and an independent assessment which congratulated the Duchy team on 'a really interesting low carbon retrofit'. Many of the lessons learned are now being applied to similar refurbishment projects.

If you have a local good cause that you think deserves additional financial support, please consider making an application to the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund. You will find an application form on our website and your Duchy team can help and advise.