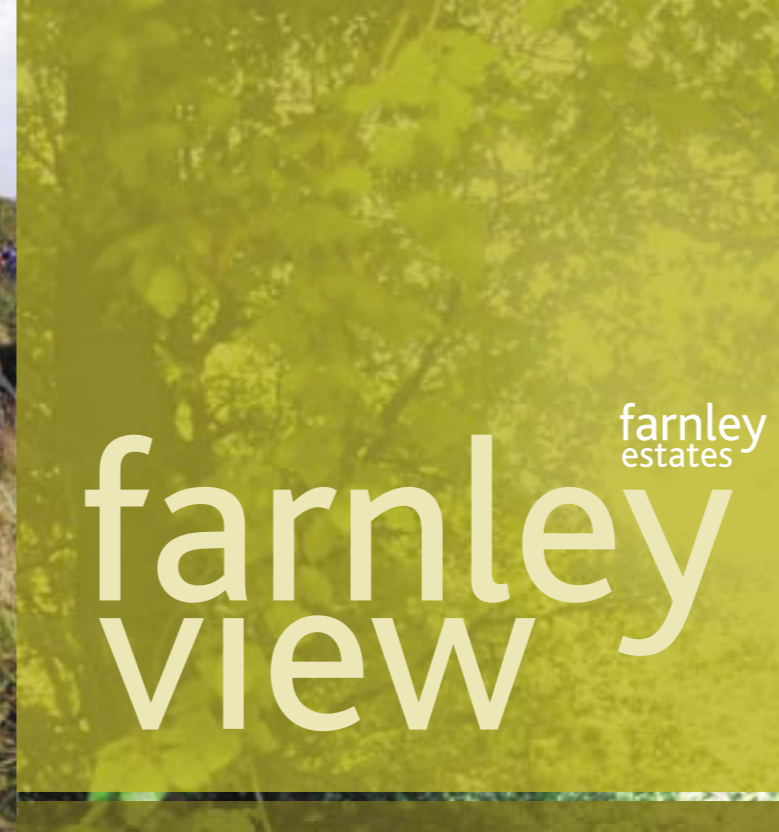




Estate Manager Paul Elgar and local farmers show French students the Farnley way.



Robert Barraclough and one of the visiting french students.



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Bonjour Farnley Tyas!

French agricultural students from Lycee Agricole de Dannemarie sur Crete, Besançon, were given a guided tour of Farnley Tyas by the Estate (including Estate Manager, Paul Elgar and local farmers, Marge & Chris Hall and Robert Barraclough, who is also the local Parish Councillor) to demonstrate how the countryside around the village is being successfully managed.

The students saw first hand how Farnley village is dealing with the diversification of agricultural land and how it is managing woodland and access matters.

Estate Manager Paul Elgar said about the visit;

“The Students were very keen and interested, it was fantastic to see a young generation getting involved in agriculture. They pointed out the many differences between English and French farming. I hope many of them become farmers themselves”

Latest News...

The Estate is meeting with the Village Committee on Wednesday 31st October to view the developer's initial plans for Farnley.

Did you know...

The Farnley Estate manages over 1200 acres of farmland and over 450 acres of woodland, with over 30 properties in and around the village of Farnley Tyas. Since 2000 the Farnley Estate has:

- Planted over 20,000 trees in woodland around the village
- Replaced large numbers of stiles and gates
- Started to refurbish hedgerows, introduced several miles of stock proof fencing and currently looking to create permissive access to areas of the estate

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Getting ready for autumn

Welcome to the first issue of Farnley View,

a soon to be regular newsletter produced by us, Farnley Estates

Don't worry if you don't know who we are. That's the job of this newsletter, to introduce us, the owners of the Farnley Estate. As the residents of Farnley Tyas, we understand the importance of keeping you informed about what's happening in your village and its surrounding areas.

The Farnley Estate consists of not only considerable countryside surrounding Farnley Tyas, but also farmyards and domestic property within the village itself. We are responsible for the maintenance of such property and land, and since the year 2000 extensive improvement work has already taken place on a number of properties. We have refurbished major areas of estate woodland, now allowing for sustainable deciduous woodlands to be created. We have been refurbishing many farmland areas since 2004, and work is still ongoing in a number of locations.

Recently, we have started looking at where improvements could be made in and around the village. However, we believe that in order to achieve maximum benefit for the village, we should take a joint approach with you the residents, as to what improvements are made. So in effect, a partnership between the Estate, and you the other residents of Farnley Tyas.

We are currently considering a possible use of Estate land and woodland surrounding the school to improve safety for children. This part of the village is particularly dangerous, especially at drop-off and pick-up times. The provision of a dedicated recreation area for children has also been suggested, which could link directly to access the school, which would eliminate the need of pavement and highway usage, and undoubtedly reduce the current safety risk to children and pedestrians alike. This may require a dog free path from the school through School Wood. The creation of a village 'square' would also hopefully act as an effective traffic calming measure, perhaps including an Estate shop, tea room, office and educational accommodation.

But as we mentioned earlier, we want your thoughts, so please feel free to contact the company secretary or managing agent. The details are in the back of this newsletter. So for now, we hope you enjoy our first newsletter and look forward to speaking to you again soon.

The Farnley Estate – A bit of history

It is believed that the original settlement of Farnley Tyas originates in the 11th century, the village growing as a traditional agricultural estate, especially in the 18th century under the ownership of the Earl of Dartmouth.

An early census shows that the population of 1821 was some 900 inhabitants and from that date there has been a steady decline in the resident population of the village. Prior to the 1800's and part into the 1900's the settlement was self supporting with shops, brewery, slaughterhouse, tannery, water company, market garden and smithy. A primary school was originally endowed by the Earl of Dartmouth, with an annual support of £30 towards the cost of education, with the school being run as it is currently, as a Church of England Primary School by a board of governors.

The agricultural depressions of the mid to late 1800's and the growth of industry within the surrounding area would have given the first major change to the village format. Further changes due to the First World War and then the depressions of the 1920's and 30's have changed the traditional self supporting agricultural estate. We, the Farnley Estate, bought the property from the Earl of Dartmouth in 1968.

Since 1968 there has been considerable amalgamation of what had been small family dairy farms, with milk or milk produce going directly to the boroughs of Huddersfield and surrounding areas. The financial returns from milk production have been negative in some of the last ten years. The cost of replacing out dated infrastructure and the difficulty in merging areas of current Estate land has meant that since 2001, there has been no milk production at Farnley Tyas.



Charolais cow, part of a local beef herd, that now dominates the Farnley Estate.

An Insight into Estate Management since 2000

An initial appraisal of Estate domestic property showed that a number of them were sub standard compared to modern accommodation needs. With properties becoming available to the Estate, five have now been totally refurbished from shell. This has meant that five high quality domestic properties have become available for rental with all units currently being occupied. Other properties required re-roofing, complete replacement of windows and doors, guttering, investigation and removal of damp problems and replacement of kitchens and bathrooms. The majority of major work has now been completed, although there are still a number of properties on the Estate which require updating and the provision of heating and improvement of services such as bathrooms and kitchens.

An overview taken of the Estate woodland revealed that the majority was of poor to very poor quality. A long term working model has been put in place to create uneven aged broad leaf woodlands, giving not only long term high quality timber, but also high amenity and conservation value with mixed habitat areas. This work is already beginning to show returns with high levels of regeneration of under storey and broad leaved trees occurring. We are currently looking at utilising the high volume of waste timber by way of biomass, either being sold from the Estate or used to produce heat for domestic properties at Farnley Tyas.

Considerable areas of land are now within the direct control of the Estate for the first time. The current farming policy is to endeavour to replace minerals and nutrients to land having a conservation approach where possible. This has meant that extensive tonnage of composted green recycled waste from Kirklees has been introduced as well as farmyard manure, slurry and lime. Boundaries have been created not only to restrain the traditional livestock of the area, dairy, but also as to beef animals and sheep. Substantial areas of land have been ploughed and seeded with cereals, work undertaken to land drainage, reduction of soil compaction, and the control of noxious and injurious weeds. On other areas of the Estate not only are cereals being grown but also vegetables and herbs.

There is as yet no long term land management policy although consideration is being given to conservation/organic production being based around cereals for both human and animal feed, we are also considering increasing the apple orchards for single juice production, quality meats from traditional breeds of livestock, vegetables and herbs. A certain element of the Estate could be given over to equine usage including specific cropping and permissive access routes.

Over the last two years there have been three Estate walks for the villagers of Farnley Tyas. If there is enough interest in a further walk, this could be undertaken.



Local Dairy Farmer, Marge Hall checks for pests within a germinating wheat crop.