



Latest News

Dunesforde Vineyard

15 January 2020

A new year and a new vineyard manager

2020 sees aspiring, local viticulturist Jonathan Atkin join the Dunesforde team as its new vineyard manager. Following his studies at Sheffield Hallam University, Jonathan worked for an events company and helped build the business over eight years. Since then, his passion for all things viticulture took off when he was looking for a hobby that would also help with his mental health. He bought 36 vines and found an allotment plot in his local village of Wilberfoss. Jonathan now has over 136 vines of 10 varieties and has been studying for the last three years, nurturing his own vineyard while completing courses from Adelaide University and the Wine and Spirit Education Trust.

Jonathan takes over from James Townsend who managed the North Yorkshire vineyard from its infancy in 2015 and saw the launch of its outstanding debut wines in 2019. James is now looking to further deepen his knowledge of viticulture and winemaking and is currently working for the largest sparkling wine producer in South Africa.

Speaking about the new appointment, Ian Townsend, the vineyard owner said, “Jonathan brings huge enthusiasm and many new ideas from his own experiences to Dunesforde. We’re looking forward to working with him and supporting his own career path into viticulture at the same time as developing the fruit quality of our own vines which started so successfully with James. I would also like to place on record our thanks to James from everyone connected with Dunesforde for all his hard work and enthusiasm over the last five years which has helped get our vineyard off to such an incredible start.”

Jonathan added, “It is an honour to be working at Dunesforde Vineyard, to be involved in making quality and exciting wines. My focus will be to build on the hard work that James has put in; respecting the vines and terroir, nurturing them in the Yorkshire Vale climate to produce more outstanding English sparkling wines.”

Jonathan joins the existing team of nine at Dunesforde on a part-time basis in January 2020. His role will also see him working closely with the volunteers to develop their knowledge and expand their experiences.



Visit the [team](#) and [volunteering](#) pages to find out more or email kat@dunesforde.com