

Lee Moor newsletter June 2006

Here comes the summer

Past the solstice but hopefully many more hot summer days to come here at Lee Moor this year. We are having a good summer at Lee Moor and yesterday we were with Phil Hamner and his son who have been generous with their time over several years in putting up bird boxes and subsequently placing rings on the birds so that we can find out where they go. Phil is registered to ring the swans and when the seven cygnets are older his team will pop on the rings. The parents look as if they have come down from Berwick; we will be more exact in future reports.

Lee Moor welcomes students

LEAF Open Farm Day on 11th June 2006 saw 300 farms across the United Kingdom open up their 'barn doors' to the public; here at Lee Moor we had a visit by students from Newcastle University and only yesterday I spent several hours with the BSc students doing the Rural Resource Management course at Reading University. They were here to study farm management and diversification; I try to challenge the students in their thinking, particularly when I know they are from farming families.

Tenants' news

Café on the Farm successfully held the RSA Coffeehouse Challenge last month (http://www.thersa.org/chc2006/ - see picture) and has hosted various events in the conference room. Suzanika's plants have arrived and displays can be bought from the café - along with Comvert's organic compost. Buy local and often please.

Toasty Heating Ltd will be organizing several open days during the rest of 2006 and within the month of July will be fully operational selling wood fuelled boilers to those with large fuel bills - and that is most of us?



Out and about

What a month I've had, very busy. Fresh Element is doing fantastically and this weekend sees them doing the Brinkburn Music festival - picnic hampers like even Yogi Bear hasn't seen. I ended up having breakfast with Clarissa Dickson-Wright who was very interested in Fresh Element and the push for more regional food in the north east. Also the re-launch of Alnwick Market place was pleasing for her to find out about. The county show was good and it was great to see fellow director Richard Sim doing the cooking demonstration at Corbridge. I went to the opening of Flying Fox's new offices, we wish James Cookson well with his expanding business and have been out and about with ONEnortheast, this included showing the Rural Advocate, Dr Stuart Burgess, around projects in south west Northumberland. We've had bike rides and family weddings and Jordan has again been bringing the precious metal back from swimming galas. Not to forget Lee Moor farmhouse now contains a teenager - this period of our life may see the baldness and grey hair arrive that I have so far avoided!!!

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