



November 2007 newsletter

Food as the main event!

Our month has seen several events around food. The first was the Northern Rural Network event at Beamish Hotel (<http://nrn.ncl.ac.uk/events/agendas/06-07/reg%20food.htm>). This was a mixture of academic and practical and this brought the interested to the table to then ask so what question: 'How are we going to sell more local food? To whom and what help is available?'

The Northumberland Strategic Partnership (<http://www.nsp.org.uk/>) has been working on a number of distinct events to give the provenance of food in the Northumberland area more depth, from game to leeks, and from recipes to demonstrations. This will be enthusiastically welcomed by those in the hospitality trade, tourists and indeed those producing quality produce.

As for farmers' markets, can I guide you a recent blog posting on The Journal? (http://blog.nebusiness.co.uk/2007/12/farmers_markets_who_owns_them.html#more)

Cocktails and canapés in a school dining hall? Indeed on 27th November St Michael's First School was the venue for Richard Sim of Fresh Element (<http://www.freshelement.co.uk/>). Richard went down a storm and funds were raised for the school's IT fund.

Environmental Futures Conference in London

The event went well and - unlike previous years - there was a good percentage of private business present, as you will see if you download the timetable.

(http://www.actionsustainability.com/docs/sw110_brochure_Sep_FINAL.pdf -  file).

All Hallow's Eve

It was good to see creative thinking in Rennington for the kids' Halloween party, and very good to see new residents with young children taking part, indeed taking the lead; well done to Sarah and her husband. The Village Hall committee was very scary - as usual!

What on earth is an ESCO?

Is your community 'blessed with heat'? Are you 'blessed with heat'? Well, more and more communities will be as those involved in renewable energy such as CoRE (<http://www.corecoop.net/>) and NAREC (<http://www.narec.co.uk/>) look at energy services companies (ESCOs). This of course is old hat at Lee Moor, where we have run one for over 7 years.

Green Tourism

Green Tourism (<http://www.green-business.co.uk/>) is about to come to Lee Moor - more of that next month. It seems clear that tourism is becoming very sensitive to its ecological footprint and that must be good for this remote part of Northumberland.

Ian E Brown



Biomass poplars at Lee Moor, with leaves fallen at the start of winter.