



March 2008 diary

Ministers

The business conducted by ministers could not be more different: at St James's Church in Alnwick we have Joan Grindrod-Helmn and at Defra in London we have Phil Woolas. Luckily enough - as my Journal blog (http://blog.nebusiness.co.uk/ian_brown/) recalls - I get to meet them both in one short week. I admire both; many years ago my father, Eddie, joked that I should choose between farming and church. He wasn't the greatest attender and naively presumed it was a one day a week job – an idea my many church-engaged friends will certainly react to! - especially in sparsely-populated areas with several historical buildings and a static (or falling) and ageing congregation. On the 24th April I will be speaking to these men and women of the cloth and talking about the future of rural areas and the agrarian economy!

The Cafe at the Farm

Lee Moor is without a cafe operator but I have every confidence as we put tenants in place that the cafe will reopen in a new part of the building. The Alnwick area is changing rapidly and another time I will link to another business I am involved in, Lamberts of Narrowgate, to explain some of the tourism-based opportunities in the area.



Meanwhile in France...

The Evil Eye - photo taken by Jordan Brown on his school skiing trip.

Bloggers

I am enjoying blogging and will pay tribute to Heather and the team at WigglyWigglers who inspired me to begin (<http://wigglywigglers.blogspot.com/>). I am working with a television partner at the present time to see how we can use the modern media to get messages across about areas I am passionate about - such as renewable energy and local food.

Toasty Heating

Homebase now have the business cards for Toasty Heating - see www.toastyheating.com. With heating oil prices over 50p/litre it is time all rural business shifted across to wood - you heard it first at www.LeeMoor.net.

Environment Agency

My last REPAC (Regional Environment Protection Advisory Committee) meeting talked about health and the environment and it is worth realising that air pollution takes three months off all of us (a winter, with a bit of luck).

Bong...

Toads, they never learn; while mating they do seem to run the risk of either being run over or eaten by a heron - in some cases both. The power of love and the dangers of the sap rising!!

Ian E Brown



Gucci catches a leaf!