



December 2008 diary

Business to be done across Europe

The partnership between Demeter Ltd and [Lee Moor Business Park](#) grows as 2008 finishes and 2009 starts. Demeter have fitted a smart water meter which sends messages via a mobile phone chip to a location where the information is added to a logging software system. Alarms can also be set so that a burst can be notified as soon as it happens. This means that at Lee Moor we can easily see when our water is being used and that we have no leaks.



The second area that [Demeter Ltd of Newburn](#) has been able to help is by joining us as one of only 8 private sector businesses across Europe to be part of [the Display programme](#). This has been rolled out to public sector organisations in the last year or so – Durham has nearly 2,000 buildings that have been assessed – but it is new to the private sector. Energy efficiency becomes even more important in a downturn and Display helps you monitor water, CO2 and energy usage. We are offering this service to other private sector owners of property.

Harvest of the land

From time to time residents, tenants and visitors will have noticed the activities of [Northumberland Estates](#) gamekeeper Kevin as he spins around feeding game birds in Landrover or quad bike and chasing vermin. Kevin is moving to work for the Queen and will be able to use his knowledge to keep game and other wildlife numbers high. Kevin is a previous winner of the Gamekeeper of the Year award and we have been glad of his 24-hour watch on this farm and the others in his care. We wish Kevin well and have to say the brace of partridge and brace of pheasant dropped off were very tasty. The feeders around the farm mean that wildlife here at Lee Moor may well have a cushy life... especially those who escape the guns.



Sunrise/sunset

Dave Hogg – from the [cafe](#) – has said recently that he has seen some fantastic sunrises and sunsets, and I am keen to collect any photographs that tenants or visitors have. Please [email them to me](#). The poplar trees and willow have a certain splendour in the winter and knowing that they will provide the carbon-neutral warmth in the buildings in future years is doubly good.

Credit Crunch – will it impact us in Northumberland?

I am bullish that the bulk of the businesses at Lee Moor Business Park will survive and prosper in the recession and I would argue that a business park with peer support is just the place to be. I am sadly at an age where recessions are not new although farming has had its own cyclic nature which was often timed differently to the rest of the economy. It should be an extra reason for all of us to work together and take advantage of whatever help is available. The economy has never needed small businesses more.

Bong... 2009 makes it the big 700 for the Percys

Tenants and staff of Northumberland Estates get the Percy News... I have for several decades been pushing the Estate to communicate as much as they can what the plans are for the Estate. A private business celebrating is awesome and as a relative of Capability Brown I can say that my own family has worked with the Percys for several hundred years. In a world of great uncertainty people may yet come to see what is real and what is... not so!

Happy 2009: let's be in charge of our own destiny!

Ian

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