



October 2009 diary

Inspiring meeting spaces

Many organisations meet at Lee Moor and we have been delighted to host events in the last few weeks for Defra, Rural Development Initiatives Ltd and Ultima Performance Ltd. The conference facilities are available at very reasonable rates and we can host bigger events within Rennington Village Hall. Alternatively, if budget allows [the Baltic](#) in Gateshead and the [Great North Museum](#) are fantastic city locations for a range of training or launch events.

Good catering is always apart of a good event and we have the knowledge on these issues.

Wood = Heat

The second heat season has started with Lee Moor supplying the Defra zero emissions building in Alnwick with energy in the form of woodchip. They pay for heat produced, which cuts out any arguments on quality - Lee Moor is incentivised to supply dry, clean, uncontaminated chip that maximises the amount of calories of heat in each load. The photo shows the 5-minute job of emptying the month's supply of energy into the underground bunker.



Advice is at a premium

What is good advice worth? 'Wise counsel' – the dictionary says it is the mutual discussion of ideas and opinions. I hope that in this business park we have that. With 20 businesses on site we can all share our victories and defeats in equal measure and more importantly adjust our business behaviour to avoid making the mistakes of others. Of course trying again is part of the entrepreneurial cycle, but co-operation is a good thing in an economic time when mistakes can be difficult to get over.

Mentoring and coaching are both things I have both given and received, and at the minute I am looking at them again. I shall hopefully be receiving help in relation to my energy start-up business, and I am giving help to the owner of a construction company – Eco of course – and mentoring an MBA student going through Durham University.

CoRE training and a cruise on HMS Enterprise

The [CoRE training of community groups](#) is something I have been happy to take part in, and I suspect I will be working with more and more groups to discover how they can take advantage of the incentives that are soon to be on offer. The market is about to explode and I'm so glad we set off on the journey in 1995!!

The enterprise cruise was an event by Iain Scott and is linked to ONEnortheast and to an ideas bank... more on that as it becomes publicly available. It is a good concept, whose parentage is the fact of life that some people struggle for business ideas and others have so many there is no space in their heads for them all. I will let you guess where I fall in this spectrum!

Flood committees

Not just policy but the real thing! As the photo shows, we seem to get these flash floods. They do have an impact and the dog training and indeed the gym training areas had some water ingress. We will work on these ahead of the next period of stair-rod rain – what I call tea-time Kenyan rain.



CLA renewables event

Well done to the CLA for organising an event on 29th October at Ramside Hall all about renewables... such a turnout from the professional firms does make me think that perhaps it is time to invest heavily into renewables. The fundamentals are in place and for rural estates and farmers, who have or can grow fuel, the system is about to pay up some fantastic opportunities for those who do not dither!

Bong... there once was an ugly duckling?

We had seven cygnets born at Lee Moor in the spring and we heard when they moved to Howick that it was down to six... The good news is that there was a runt of the litter. I know that that is pig rather than bird phraseology, but stick with me on this. The youngest bird crash landed on a grass field and was abandoned by its siblings and parents. It was on a grass-only diet, which would have led to its slow physical decline, so Philip – our licensed swan expert – picked it up and brought it back to Lee Moor. I'm told it physically perked up when it came over the railway line and recognised the farm... seriously! So the parents and other 6 come and go and are doing well, and the ugly duckling is building its strength... Aunty Enid has bought some maize... so hopefully they will all live happily ever after!

Ian