



Lee Moor Newsletter March 2006

Spring is also just around the corner!

Ian says "For the last thirty years I have always used the phrase 'popping round the corner' to mean going to my Auntie's house, which funnily enough is just around the corner from my farmhouse, there are two cottages here at Lee Moor. As a child Enid's house provided a bolt hole for me. I was attracted by a roaring fire, homemade ginger biscuits and Robinson's Barley Water – which was always in a tall green Tupperware beaker. It is now the turn of my four children to run off there; often this is to do projects on subjects as broad as the Andes or the Second World War. As winter finishes it is good to have the certainty of spring and summer around the corner. It is worth saying here that since the death of my Uncle John last December Auntie Enid has pulled together a project of her own about her Uncle John, who died at the very end of the First World War – after whom my uncle was named. Reading the letters written home (not to mention the diaries of the pilgrimage made by my grandmother to see the war graves in the 1920s) puts life somewhat into perspective."

Out and about

Ian has, as ever, been out and about with ONEnortheast and the Environment Agency. On the ONEnortheast work he has been on a tour to allow rural activists to understand what it is the rural team at ONE can do to make things happen; hence Ian getting to Stanhope, Saltburn and Longhirst.



The Environment Agency national board met in Middlesbrough in late March and Ian was invited to the meetings, visits and dinner. The first visit looked at the aspirations of Middlehaven and several other key sites in the care of Tees Valley Regeneration Company. The second interesting visit was to John Baarda's tomato farm in Teesside, producing 7,000 tonnes of vine and other added value types of tomatoes – the site gets waste heat and CO₂ from its industrial neighbours... now that's magic!!



Lee Moor

Toads are on the move, as from the last week in March, they have sprung! Sadly they have little road sense so do take care when coming in to Lee Moor. Thanks to Janice at the Care Trust for the signs and rescue missions.

It is intended to harvest a small amount of willow to test the new wood fired boiler when it starts operation next month.

The swans look as if they will nest this year, too early to be sure though. Can I also thank Philip Hanmer and his family for putting up a barn owl box? – any news of residency will be broken here!

Tenants' news

Michael Curry from Serac Solutions has expanded and has moved to a Northumberland Estates unit in Alnwick. Sam Broughton has given the café at the farm back and a new company will be formed to run the café from Easter - more about that as it becomes clear.

Fresh Element

Just a note to ask you to look at the catering proposition that Fresh Element can now deliver. It is about time that there were gourmet caterers in the area who wanted to buy local. Ian adds: "In my line of work I see more buffets than the average bear – although less 'picnic hampers' – and most of them are lazy and poor – nutritionally. Anybody can order deep frozen samosas and serve them up – I am amused that they are (according to the internet) 'the eastern equivalent of the Cornish pasty'. Let's have local food, prepared on the doorstep!!"

See also Fresh Element's website – <http://www.freshelement.co.uk/>

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