



Lee Moor newsletter May 2006

Seven cygnets for Lee Moor



Photos by Mark Shipperlee - mark@lightchaser.co.uk

Ian says: "Although not all are likely to survive we have had seven cygnets hatch on the pond at Lee Moor in front of the farmhouse and business park. This is a first for Lee Moor and I hope now the swans have nested once they will carry on being based here. One of the things that has been clear to me in the last few months is that the conservation works that I carried out in the 1980s and 1990s are only now coming to fruition in landscape terms. The trees, hedges, shrubs and ponds are beginning to mature and literally bear fruit.

Rennington Village Hall

"Opened by The Rt Hon Alan Beith, Rennington Village Hall has completed its transformation and is now one of the smartest halls in the county. I will be pushing it hard as a bespoke venue for conferences and I'd be delighted to organise the event and catering for those keen to have a venue in the north of the county for up to 200 people with ample free car parking. Rennington also had the Defra Rural Communities team up from London; it is good to see policy makers coming out of London to grasp the issues on the ground. After last month it may also be worth saying that most farmers - including myself - have had most, but not all, of the new farm payments due to us. There are many policy changes happening in rural areas at the minute and I hope we can work through them with dignity.

Tenants' news

"The Café at the Farm is going from strength to strength and is doing buffets for the tenants on site. Passing trade is also picking up as we move towards the main tourist season here in north Northumberland. The planters by Suzanika will be here in June and we hope to have the site looking its best for the summer holidays.

"Toasty Heating Ltd is about to formalize its relationship with Eenergy (www.eenergy.ltd.uk) and as such there will be a series of open days at Lee Moor to see the new boiler - once commissioned in June. With oil prices where they are this is a fantastic time to look at wood heating.

Lee Moor

"The 'Open Farm' day is on Sunday 11th June, but in May we had the joy of having 28 members of the local WI (Women's Institute) who were here to look at Lee Moor as a LEAF demonstration farm, the WI also had a second group who attended Blagdon Estate near Newcastle upon Tyne. The feedback was good and particularly in response to the renewable energy projects that we have taken part in.



Out and about

"May was a good month. Family-wise, Jordan and Natalie took key roles in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Natalie took the part of the Narrator and Jordan was in the chorus. Caitlin had been in the production of Rats two weeks before so Lindsay and I are very proud of what our children are doing out of school and very lucky to have the Alwick Playhouse to host and encourage such activity. Sport is also on the extra curricular timetable and we all swim as a family, and indeed Natalie, Jordan and Caitlin are all in Alwick Dolphins. Personal bests have been tumbling and Caitlin has won her first race with Jordan coming back with 5 medals from the same competition in Duns - good to keep the Reiving traditions going in the border counties."

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