



## October 2007 newsletter

### The very civil servant!

Our man from Brussels Mr Marshall Hsia went home a tired but happy man. Work shadowing Ian Brown may or may not be one of the most challenging jobs with the EU 27... it would be for Commission Administrator Marshall from Directorate Enterprise to say!

### You Tube moment at the church supper

The Rennington C of E church has for many years had table-creaking harvest suppers of impressive standards. Having been christened at a harvest festival I always have a need to be thankful when all is 'safely gathered in' - even when I no longer do the gathering personally! The hymns (ancient and modern) are a world away from the world of futures and commodity trading but the fundamentals of seven good years and seven bad ones are still fit for purpose, as indeed Francis Fulford mentioned at the CLA event last week (see later paragraphs in the newsletter). The supper was run extremely professionally by Chris and her ladies - but then in one of those moments which would have run up the YouTube league table, a lady slipped while she was serving, delivering the full contents of the cream jug over a senior member (in rank, not necessarily age) of the Rennington Church congregation. Result, embarrassments all round and as cream and suede are not good companions a change of clothes back home - good job we were all local that night. As somebody in catering myself my heart went out to all involved and just a shame nobody captured it on their mobile phone - the church coffers could have been a couple of hundred notes up on the deal.

### Crafty day in Newcastle

Creative Crafts for Christmas (see <http://initialj.co.uk/>) went well for my colleague Alison Lough at the end of October, although numbers were down a bit because we do seem to be using the school half-term holiday as a great escape week. I guess to get worker bees from summer holidays to Christmas without their brains exploding - or shouting at the boss - they need a week off! I would like to extol the special nature of two fantastically creative people who were displaying their wares:

- Roger (<http://www.rogercoulam.com/>) sold me a lovely present for my wife Lindsay (it was her birthday the week after the event) for an undisclosed sum. 'First light at Dunstanburgh Castle' is a very evocative photograph and since life has, so far, made me too tired to go and have a look myself this is a great second best - hanging on our wall as it now does.
- Willa Story - I was impressed at the quality of her work and wished I'd brought more cash. Those who know me probably have an inkling about why I don't hang around mirrors too long and it's fair to say vanity about my looks is something I'm not afflicted by, but Willa is no ordinary mirror designer and she is currently thinking through some potential commissions for

me... The Mirror showing you ten years younger and the one showing your future are only two of the cracking ideas we came up with in an impromptu brainstorm.

## CLA 100 and going strong

I have long had a well-deserved reputation for being earnest - it is thus with great pleasure that 2007 is the year when I got to hear Francis Fulford under the spires of the Oxford Colleges and at Meldon Park. With less to lose I too am tempted to volley off the F word. This event sponsored by Strutt and Parker was to celebrate the centenary of the Country Land and Business Association. Food was by Fresh Element (<http://www.freshelement.co.uk/>); thanks also to the excellent hospitality of Mr and Mrs James Cookson of Meldon Park (<http://www.meldonpark.co.uk/>).

## New category

I will in future be doing a focus on each tenant at Lee Moor Business Park, and Emma Chapman (our website editor) and I will be updating the website. We will perhaps move towards more content and also setting up websites for other companies with an Ian Brown link. Please do tell others about these electronic newsletters. I hope to link to more sites than I have in the past and in return appreciate hyperlinks when and where I can get them!

## Ian E Brown



A heron considers swallows' recommendation of South Africa for winter - before dismissing it as too much of an effort!!