



August 2009 diary



Church family day

At the end of July St James URC church from Alnwick had a barbecue and family day. It went really well, thanks to all those church members who came and gave their support. The wildlife quiz, sports, food and general sense of community made it a lovely day.

Scarecrows just get better

For 11 years now Rennington has had a quirky way of making money to run the community assets and raising funds for charity. (The village hall was the first challenge, it is now beautiful.) To find out more see the [Rennington Scarecrow Weekend webpage](#), plus [more pictures on Flickr](#). Lee Moor created a Humpty Dumpty and of course all the King's Horses and all the King's Men!! More of Humpty next month... will he have a great fall?? - bit of a cliffhanger really!

Wood is good

We had a visit by our chipper man Nick Ridley back last month and he worked his way through enough fuel to last us the winter. The wood came from Northumberland Estates, grown to the Forestry Commission's sustainability scheme, and having been seasoned for over two years it is exceptionally dry. This is good, as wood burns less well when contaminated by water... I know it's obvious but look at the number of people who buy damp logs! Expect lots of news in relation to this topic as the price of oil rises again and the Government gives more encouragement to do the right thing.



Denmark

I have been out to Skive in Denmark – please no jokes about going to 'skive off' for two days, the aim is to import wood boilers direct from the manufacturer so we can have a short supply chain to go with our even shorter fuel supply chain.

Website for Cafe

The Black Olive Cafe at Lee Moor Business Park has been a tremendous asset and David now has grabbed some time to get the [Black Olive Sandwich Company's](#) website up and working.

It is worth being aware that they provide catering for conferences at Lee Moor, as well as the van and the picnic and outside catering service. I am really pleased with quality and I am sure there is much success ahead for them.

Zecca

[Richard Sim](#) has been involved with a new venture in Amble. I have know Richard all his life and am in business with him in Fresh Element. I wish him well with his new venture and enjoyed being there with family and friends in August for my birthday. I am determined to be more involved in tourism and hospitality in the future and all I can say is "watch this space!!"

Bong... pond

Lancelot Brown – Capability – designed a pond at Kirkharle, his birth place, which was never built... until now. I was glad to be there at the sod cutting, representing the Regional Development Agency. As a direct descendant of Capability's cousin I smiled as the rain fell on the VIPs... the irony was not lost on me. To those who went before... cheers.

Ian