



## Lee Moor newsletter July 2006

### Swan alert



We counted them out and we counted them back again; males occasionally drag their families to see things that the rest of the family just don't want to see!! The pair of swans that nested here at the beginning of 2006 had 7 cygnets on 25th May 2006 and stayed here happily until early July, when the male walked them about a mile, off Lee Moor, to The Limery - where Roger, Judy Brewis and daughter Sally kept an eye on them. Sadly two cygnets did not survive this 'yomp' and we are struggling to understand what motivated the swans to move?

Enter Philip Hanmer - a friend of Lee Moor who is a bird watcher and licensed ringer of swans. He was due to attach rings to them anyway; he went to visit them at The Limery and decided to return them to Lee Moor for their own welfare. Since then all at Lee Moor have been making sure they have enough food, and as we have a bakery on site there is little excuse for them wandering till the late autumn when they may fly to a new location. All in all a worrying time, but as they are wild birds all we can do is offer them habitat and the essentials of life - interfering directly is a last resort but was necessary on this occasion.



### Lee Moor - phew what a scorcher!!

Most of the solid stone walls of the buildings here, at Lee Moor Business Park, have spent most of their time over the centuries keeping the cold, wet Northumbrian rain out - thus it is a pleasure to announce a hot summer unlike no other. The ground is parched and the set-aside ground has been prepared for the planting of wheat in the next two months. The game cover crops are moving along but could do with a 'drink' of rain. The average rainfall is 600mm year and we have seen no significant single falls of rain this year, even though the Easter period saw steady rain leading to the late sowing of spring crops.



## Tenants' news - Toasty Heating has now signed as a partner of Econergy Ltd

The long-awaited boiler upgrade is all but complete; the irony of doing this in the hottest summer in 30 years has struck us. On the day the Government announced their response to the energy review Ian Brown, on behalf of Toasty Heating Ltd, signed to be a regional partner for Econergy Ltd – [www.econergy.ltd.uk](http://www.econergy.ltd.uk) - the premier supplier of wood-fuelled boilers in the UK.

(These brochures, available at Lee Moor, show the range of wood-fuelled boilers available.)

## Out and about

July was a busy month on the family and business front at Lee Moor. This unfortunately led to a Speech Day clash as Ian's Environment Agency REPAC meeting clashed with Natalie Brown getting three awards (English, Science and Music - how is that for being a good all rounder!) as she left middle school for the high school. Jordan, Caitlin and Larissa have also had very good sporting and academic years. All the Brown children were involved with the Alnwick Dolphins 'diddy league' celebrations - seeing them take the open topped bus from the swimming baths in Alnwick to Rennington Village Hall for a party was fantastic. Well done Lindsay Brown and Elaine Hastings on bringing it all together. Jordan has tried his first triathlon - swimming, running and biking, in that order!! Travel in the heat is very tiring and having air conditioning has been lovely, even though I realise there are carbon footprint issues. Lee Moor and its inhabitants score well but there is always more we can do in a 'one planet' world - as David Milliband our minister at Defra is now calling it. I have worked out my global impact twice this month with differing groups of people, and we do indeed need to work together to have a positive rather than negative effect on the world that we feed off.

## Soap box

"This is as close to a blog as I am currently willing to get:

The north east and if I may say the rural areas within it are in a unique position, which I get to see on a daily basis - as practitioner and policy maker. I am unashamedly ambitious and so should the north east be as a region - I am making reference to the OECD report out last week ([www.newcastle.gov.uk/wwwfileroot/pressoffice/execsummary.pdf](http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/wwwfileroot/pressoffice/execsummary.pdf)). Attitudes and behaviours are what will make the difference. The World Cup brought some interesting lessons about both leadership and the hunger for success. I believe that the countryside can deliver more than its fair share of economic success in the next decade, given a level playing field. Secondly, in relation to leadership we need to move on and explain to our urban-based leaders what the interdependence issues are between 'town and country'. There are so many areas of opportunity. This month I have been speaking at events about renewable energy and biofuels, and these are only two areas where the rural areas can deliver for the whole region and beyond.

Lastly can I thank the Queen for inviting Lindsay and I round to Buckingham Palace on 20th July for one of the three Royal garden parties? - the offer is open in the other direction anytime - just give us a bit of notice! It was a scorcher of a day and even though it peaked at 31.7 degrees centigrade we would not have missed it for the world."

## Ian E Brown

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Lee Moor Farm Business Park, Rennington, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 3RL **Tel:** 01665 577 253 **Fax:** 01665 577 253

**Email:** [ibrown.leemoor@farmline.com](mailto:ibrown.leemoor@farmline.com)