



## February 2008 diary

### New brooms

The Business Park is embarking on a spring clean in preparation for spring, the return of the swallows and indeed the new tenants. I have brought two stiff-bristled, long-handled brushes from Paxtons to get that concrete shining. One is a spare, but don't let that put you off volunteering to help me raise a bit of March dust!

### The frosts

Lee Moor looked magical with the skeletal forms of the trees and shrubs on show. I have added some pictures taken at 9am on a very crisp morning in the last third of February. Most people who live on the land feel the need to have four distinct seasons; the heavy winter frosts are needed to kill the bugs and they also slow the spread of diseases such as Blue Tongue.



*Willow - second crop*



*Poplar in perfect rows, half to be thinned next year*

### Food and Farming

I have attended a meeting to progress the work of Food and Farming ([www.yearoffoodandfarming.org.uk](http://www.yearoffoodandfarming.org.uk)). We are approaching halfway point for its activities, but the scheme will carry on after July. With rising world commodity prices there has never been such a need for focused communications with the industries end users. On that front, well done to the Glendale Show Society for their hard work on education - I have the tie; silk and well worth the money!

## Art and wildlife

I was rubbish at art in my later school days and thus appreciate that others are good at it. My visit to fii-fie-fo-fum ([www.fifiefofum.com](http://www.fifiefofum.com)) was very inspiring and I recommended it in my blog that evening (<http://blog.nebusiness.co.uk/2008/03/fifiefofum.html>).

## Environment Agency

Having completed three years with the Environment Agency I'm glad to say I have been re-appointed for a further three years. The Regional Environment Protection Advisory Committee (REPAC) is an independent group of individuals that act as a touchstone around improving the environment of soil, air and water ([www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northeast/431107/?lang=\\_e](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/northeast/431107/?lang=_e)).

## Bong...

**Toasty Heating Ltd** now has a web presence - [www.toastyheating.com](http://www.toastyheating.com) - and we look forward to much business this year - do pick up our cards from Homebase in Alnwick, Berwick and Blyth.

## Ian E Brown

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