



## March 2009 diary

### Lee Moor's giant artful willow

[Sophia Monkman](#) has agreed to design an installation at Lee Moor Farm within the willow and poplar. It will be iconic, and capable of being seen from the trains that dash up the east coast line which passes the farm; London to the south and Edinburgh to the north. The suggestion so far - and this was not written on April 1st - is a giant bull which will gaze out over the Northumbrian landscape and mark the place that grows the woodfuel. We are also very keen to engage with [Natural England](#) as we believe that Lee Moor is once again in an excellent position to have more members of the public and schools around to see the wildlife and learn more about the balance of economic/social and environmental activities that make up Lee Moor Farm and Business Park.

### Local Food Local Fuel

[Ignition 09](#) and Northumberland's tourism project [Made in Northumberland](#) ended on the same night. Well done to all those involved in both projects, they have added value to supply chains and it is good to develop industries that will soon be very mainstream. They will also contribute to reducing carbon.

### Leadership into a green and sustainable future

In the north east we do have some strong leadership of our business and political communities and so I was glad to go along to the Newcastle Falcons' ground and hear a number of speakers set out some views about how the north east is doing. There is a definite feeling from the public sector that although tightening hard now it will be even worse in 18 months' time; so let's crack on with our ambitions rather than wait for the recession to finish.



### Hedging our bets

Hedges have a number of uses and on Lee Moor we are very proud of the 6 miles of hedges that were restored in the 1990s. They have now all matured and indeed may well be layed to be strengthened in the future. They provide shelter and habitat for wildlife, and break the countryside up into the shapes that give us that English landscape that is so unique. The other thing I want you to know is that it is my cousin Nicky Brown who cuts them at Lee Moor; this year he has also done some of the ditch sides too. Nicky has an eye for the surfaces on a hedge which means they are spot on. You will notice that some are square, others are designed to be 'A'-shaped hedges.

## The end of an era

Northumberland County Council is now it, no districts left... as an Honorary Alderman of Northumberland I am bitter sweet about this but am all for progress if it can achieve benefits for the people that live, work and relax in Northumberland. I also went to the retirement of Alan Wann, which I have to say brought the human angle to the political expedience. I wish Alan well and have already thanked him for taking a lead on renewables in Northumberland by setting up NREG – Northumberland Renewable Energy Group. As Alan has an interest in local food as well, I suspect our paths will meet.

## Bong... Rhubarb and custard

The Prime Minister was present and I'm glad to say there was less rhubarb present than on some previous occasions, as I attended a Low Carbon Economy for Business event in London on behalf of ONEnortheast... of course the main reason that 6th of March will be remembered in 2009 was that Lord Mandelson received a cup of green custard in his face; this was a stupid prank and does show a lack of security. To us in Northumberland who do care about renewables and green jobs, it was a day that meant the Government at last was behind these areas of sustainable growth... and that's progress!!



**Ian**

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