



Cambridge Campus Chat

Newsletter

Issue 6 October 2011

The College
of West Anglia

WELCOME.....

ALL, to our termly newsletter covering all the latest happenings, achievements and advances at our Cambridge Campus. You will find stories and events from all of our main departments including Agriculture, Animal Care, Equine and Horticulture. We have stories from both staff and students and hope you will enjoy catching up with the latest campus developments.

A Garden Fit For A Duchess

Mark Ekin

In July 2010 Level 3 Horticulture students helped build a garden for the homeless charity Emmaus at the prestigious Hampton Court flower show which was entitled "An uprising of Kindness and won a silver medal". The garden itself represents the rapid spread of the charity during the severe winter of 1954, when its founder Abbé Pierre broadcast a radio appeal to the French public for donations. The overwhelming response was described by Le Figaro as 'an Uprising of Kindness'. People from all over Paris and across France donated blankets, food and clothing to help all those struggling to survive on the streets or in inadequate accommodation.



It was always the intention that the garden would be reconstructed at the Emmaus Cambridge site and that is now coming to fruition, Emmaus now have the necessary materials and resources required to construct it. Our horticulture students will be constructing the garden as part of their studies. The garden will then be officially opened in autumn this year by the HRH Duchess of Cornwall who is the patron of Emmaus.

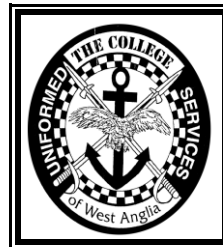
Uniformed Services Have Arrived

Rob Cooke

Yes, with effect from September 2011, the Uniformed Services team are delivering Level 2 & 3 courses to those prospective future action men and women of the uniformed services from the Cambridge Campus.

How will you recognise us?

Not as you would probably expect... a lot of students marching around and making grunting noises, wearing combats and shouting 'gung-ho'... but with a group of students, wearing navy blue T-Shirts, who are looking for something a little different.



What will we be doing?

As well as the level 2 academia, the guys will be working in the campus woodland area, getting to know about camouflage and learning to observe, they will be learning to kayak and canoe, experience camping (sometimes with a difference) and taking part in a lot of team-building activities and physical development and a bit of riot training with the police.

Why do you need to know all this?

Well, if you know anyone who would be interested in this course (1 year), we will still be recruiting. Ask them to call us or drop in and meet the team (Rob Cooke & Daz Welsh). Just speak to any of the reception team for assistance

Vet Nursing Results

Lisa Prescott

Congratulations to our Veterinary Nursing students who all achieved fabulous results in their recent exams. These achievements recognise the quality of the training we are able to offer to our students.



Anglia Ruskin
University

FdSc Applied Animal Behaviour Launches: September 2011

Jenny Brandham

A new year starts and so does a new foundation degree course at the College of West Anglia. As part of the Joint Venture with Anglia Ruskin University, students at the Cambridge Campus are now able to study Applied Animal Behaviour. They will make full use of the Endeavour Building housing the behavioural suite and vast range of species, ranging from African land-snails to alpacas and from corn-sakes to chinchillas. These students have the unique benefit of education across two institutions. Whilst on the campus at Anglia Ruskin University, they can make use of the large library provision, state of the art multiple tiered lecture theatres, luxury cafe facilities and a vast selection of experts who are leading research in baboons, ladybirds and elephants; even a gym if they're feeling fit! So if you're currently completing a level 3 National Diploma in Animal Care or Horse Management and studying animal behaviour makes you feel like a dog with two tails, many opportunities await...

Campus Enrichment Events

Sylvia Scotter-Finnigan

At the Cambridge Campus we support a number of charities. During the last academic year we raised over £1,200 which helped Jeans for Genes, The Poppy Appeal, Comic Relief and Children in Need. Activities included dressing up, cake stalls, tractor competitions, football matches and some male students getting a leg wax!! Equine even managed to get in the local paper! I look forward to working with you to do it all again this year, only bigger and better. Look out for information on posters and via the learning platform. Student Reps will be key in running the fund raising events. We also run a number of awareness raising campaigns and the following are planned over the next 3 months:

October: Genes for Jeans; Black History Month; Breast Cancer Awareness; World Blindness Awareness; Halloween

November: Road Safety; Anti Bullying; Children in Need; Armistice Day; Bonfire Night; St Andrews Day.

December: National Tree Week; International Disabled Day; Drink Awareness; World Aids Day; Tree Dressing Day

Equestrian Development

Vicki Smart

The Cambridge Horse Sport Academy has an extremely busy summer and even busier Autumn term. As well as a successful trial of British Dressage competitions, we have continued to host regular Show Jumping events and even an Arena XC event! Throughout the Autumn/Winter there will two show jumping events per month as well as Unaffiliated and Affiliated Dressage competitions, all the information for these events is available in our new Events Booklet which can be downloaded from our website www.cwa.ac.uk/horse.

We are now busy planning for the Equine Extravaganza which promises to be action packed day including a visit fresh from the recent European Eventing Championships Bronze Medal Winning team member Piggy French! As well as a chance to pick up tips from Piggy, there will be demonstrations from many different equestrian sports including Vaulting, Trek and western riding. Come and try your hand at riding side saddle on the riding simulator!

We are delighted to announce that we are now in a position to begin holding British Show Jumping Club events, these classes will run alongside the unaffiliated show jumping events.



The CHSA stable has grown recently with several new equine friends joining us including: Neo, Summer, Flora and Sherry. Please contact us if you are interested in livery.

Riding lessons have really taken off; the benefit of having such experienced and knowledgeable Instructors as well great horses and facilities has made us a first choice centre for anyone looking to develop their riding abilities.

To book an assessment lesson please call us on
01223 860701

Keep an eye out for upcoming events, if you do not compete why not come along and watch? All our events have a great atmosphere as well as the chance to meet friendly like minded people, why not volunteer and gain valuable experience?

Work Experience

Hannah Goddard

Students complete work experience as a compulsory part of their course to prepare them for work in their chosen area. Feedback we receive from employers and the students clearly shows how valuable they find this experience:



1 - Colchester Zoo, the students that went here were overwhelmingly enthusiastic, they were the ones who had, by far the best comments to say about their placement and all of them said that they had decided that they would like to pursue a career in zoo keeping.

2 - Robinson College Cambridge, this is the second consecutive year that Robinson college has offered one of our horticulture students a placement, the student felt that he was given plenty of opportunities to learn new skills but was also given responsibilities that he may not have got at another placement.

3 - World Horse Welfare, the student who went here had to be pulled away from what she was doing when I went to visit her, she had been so engrossed, that she had completely lost track of time. She also felt that she had been given responsibility in her role and had seen things she wouldn't have seen by going to a 'normal yard'

SAU News

Tracey Palmer

The small animal unit would like to welcome Lester, Harvey and Apollo – alpacas from Houghton Hall. They have left a very large herd but were used to other animals particularly goats. On their arrival they were placed in the paddock next to our goats so they could be introduced to each other, the following day they moved in with the goats and all seem happy to be living together! We have also just been blessed with the arrival of two micro pigs that are yet to be named so watch this space for more information... there will be a competition!



CWA Woodlands Farm

Jason Ambrose



To help promote farm diversification, the Cambridge Campus Woodside Farm recently contracted 150 KellyBronze turkeys to grow on 'Free Range' for Christmas. The agricultural students will be given hands-on practical learning in livestock production and they will learn how to care for commercial poultry. KellyBronze cooks in half the time and once tried you'll never have anything else on your Christmas plate!

If you would like further information about Kelly Bronze Turkeys visit www.kellyturkeys.co.uk. If you're interested in ordering your KellyBronze for Christmas, you will soon be able to order via the college website or simply contact Jason Ambrose to register your interest.



www.herefordcattle.org

"Hereford Cattle" The natural choice for "Quality Beef"

The campus is now pleased to be growing calves as part of the livestock production part of the farm. These include a pair of Hereford twins. The Hereford breed was sourced because of its good temperament which makes them easier to train and Herefords finished off grassland produce an excellent 'marbled' beef that is in great demand both within the UK and for export due to its distinctive flavour and renowned eating quality.

Landscape Garden Design comes to the Cambridge Campus

Mark Ekin -

Last year horticultural students constructed small show gardens as part of their practical lessons. These gardens were completed in June and were then judged live on Radio Cambridge by their roving reporter.

The winning garden was designed and built by Jake Peachey a level 3 year 2 horticulture

student and was entitled 'Walking on Water' and featured a stepping stone path over a rectangular water feature leading to a decked pergola area with planting either side of the water feature.



Can you be creative?

Win £100 HMV gift card and see your garden design brought to life – Open to any pupil in year 10 or 11. Design a 5m² garden with an Olympic theme that includes a range of both soft and hard landscape features. Explain your entry in less than 100 words and the winning design will be constructed in 2012 at our Cambridge Campus to celebrate the Olympic Games.

Entries close Friday 16th March 2012.

Conference Poster at International Society for Equitation Science



International Society for
Equitation Science

Both horses and students at the Cambridge Campus this year have taken part in research collaboratively undertaken with CWA and the Animal Health Trust (AHT) investigating equine biomechanics on both the indoor and outdoor arena surfaces. Horses spent the day with ping pong balls located at various points of their anatomy and video recordings were made with a high speed camera. Titled "Over-ground comparison of fore and hind limb fetlock extension and hoof slide", the poster will be presented this October in the Netherlands at the International Society for Equitation Science.



www.equitationsscience.com.

Cabinet Drying

Vanessa Reed

We now have a new speedier way to dry the dogs off after their baths – a cabinet dryer. It will make a huge difference to drying time and is a great learning tool for the students. All the dogs have taken to it well and several have even fallen asleep while in it!



We also have a new day kennel facility with the opening of Willow Kennels.

K9 Grooming offers scissoring, clipping and hand stripping..... all breeds are welcome.

We offer a 20% reduction of price for staff & students

National Plant Collection

Mark Ekin

If you take a walk through the college campus grounds you will notice there has been a lot of development. This is continuing with the appearance and educational value of the gardens being vitally important to our horticultural curriculum activity.

We have decided to apply to the National Council for Plants and Gardens {NCCPG} to have a National collection and we have chosen to apply to house the Miltonia Orchid Collection. This is a collection that is currently available and is aptly named for our village location. We also have the facilities to house it and it is an excellent additional teaching and learning resource. Watch this space for updates on the progress of venture.



PLANT HERITAGE

National Council for the Conservation of Plants & Gardens

I hope you enjoyed the newsletter. Please contact the College for more information on courses:

www.cwa.ac.uk

Many Thanks to Vicki Smart for collating all of the stories, and to the contributors!

Alison Barber, Cambridge Campus Director