



Royal Norfolk Showground Norwich
April 23rd & 24th - Gates Open 9am

- **John Bidwell** (4 time World Clay Pigeon Shooting Champion) **Shooting Exhibition**
- **Competition Clay Pigeon Shoot & Tullion March** (10.00 for entry - Ladies + Junior 5.00)
- **Gun Dog Society** • **Sheep Dog Demo** • **Forest Display & Feeding**
- **Ye Olde Redtail Falconry Display** • **Essex Dog Display Team**
- **Sheep Shearing** • **Archery Competition & Have A Go Stands**
- **Fly Fishing & Cast A Line** • **Terrier Racing**
- **Sheep Show** • **Gun Dog Demo** • **Pigeon & Greyhound Race**
- **Dog Agility Classes** • **Pet Dog Show** • **Terrier & Lurcher Show (cont)**
- **Scottish Pipers** • **Wife Swap** • **Forest Show (cont)** • **Countryside Bazaar**
- **Food Hall** • **Craft Hall** • **Helicopter Flights** • **Childrens Entertainment**
- **FREE Parking** • **Over 260 Trade Stalls** • **Bar Catering & Much More**

"Bring your family your friends and your dog!"

Advanced **BUY ONE... GET ONE FREE** **1st & 2nd**
 Ticket Value **Adults £8 Children £3 (4-10yrs) Under 4's FREE!**

Ticket Line: (email booking fee applies - discounted ticket offer valid until 16.04.05)

0870 143 2202

associations attending:



or book online: **www.seetickets.com**



Pictures: submitted



■ Broadland 102's Morning Crew, Rob Chandler and Chrissie Jackson, will officially open this year's fair. They will arrive in the radio station's brand new Black Thunder Helicopter, sponsored by Sterling Aviation, which will be conducting pleasure flights too.

■ For man's best friend there'll be a scurry organised by Mid-Norfolk Gundog Club, events for terriers and lurchers, a pet dog show and a host of dog agility skills. Wroxham Agility Group will show visitors how they train dogs to tackle everything from jumps and A-frames to see-saws, weaves and tyres, and, under the supervision of trained handlers, fair-goers can have a go either with the group's dogs or their own pets. What's more, a terrier and lurcher show, and a ferret show, will take place on Sunday.

■ Greyhound racing? Been there! Pigeon racing? Seen that! But a greyhound racing against a pigeon? This race will form the intriguing finale when Yorkshiremen Dave Sleight and Ian Calder stage their display at the fair. The pair will share their wealth of knowledge of using ferrets and lurchers to control rabbits on farmland and racehorse gallops, but it's the head-to-head races between animal and bird that usually get the crowd really buzzing.

■ Canine performers from the Essex Dog Display Team have wowed crowds everywhere with their action-packed spectacles. Gunfire and flaming hoops pose no obstacle to this energetic team, which, interestingly, is comprised mainly of rescue dogs.

■ Back in the 1970s, Rob McLean was inspired by the BBC-TV series, One Man and his Dog, to try to train a collie to work sheep, and four years ago he was a judge for the programme. Norfolk-based Rob has represented England at international level and has been in demand across Europe and in America for his sheepdog training and judging expertise. On this occasion he will be closer to home to give fair-goers an insight into his fascinating craft.

■ Delicious in any language! The food hall will feature fare from home and overseas. Meanwhile, Charles Jardine, who is showing his awesome fly-fishing prowess at the event, will be offering demonstrations on preparing and cooking fish.

■ Ever wondered what it's like being a mouse confronted by an eagle owl? This experience is one of the specialities of Ye Olde Redtail Falconry Display. Ray and Wendy Alicker's sought-after presentation combines the majesty and mystery of birds of prey with audience participation. They choose a medieval context for their demonstrations, which may include falcons and hawks too, even the odd vulture.

■ Norfolk's rich architectural heritage owes much to the prosperity of the wool industry of old, yet how much does the average 21st century country-dweller know about sheep? Plug the gaps in your knowledge by visiting the Sheep Show at the fair, compered by New Zealander Richard Savory. See different breeds, find out about shearing and discover the journey of wool from the sheep's back to the shop.

■ Top associations will be attending including the British Association of Shooting and Conservation, the Country Landowners' Association and the Countryside Alliance.

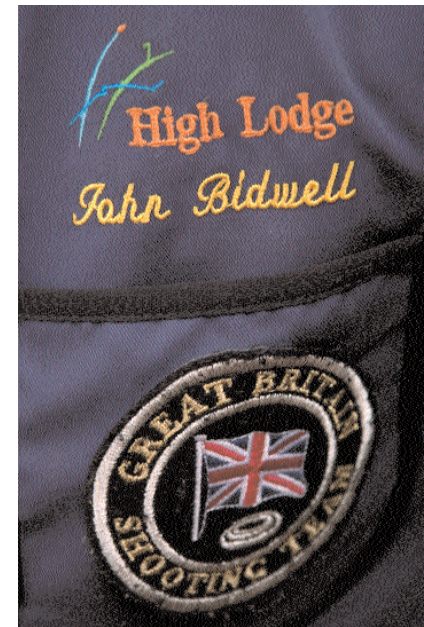
■ Plus there'll be over 250 quality trade stands, a fascinating craft hall, and plenty for children, with entertainers, climbing walls, slides and bouncy castles.

Bigger and better

The second East Anglian Game & Country Fair will include far more attractions than the first, with five show rings instead of two last year. Mark Tweedie reports.



Pictures: Nick Butcher.



You've marvelled at all those sharpshooters in the movies – but you ain't seen nothing yet! John Bidwell (pictured above) will demonstrate a wealth of truly extraordinary shooting talents when he stars at the EDP Norfolk magazine-sponsored 2005 East Anglian Game & Country Fair this month. Whether he's firing from the hip, over the shoulder, even through his legs, John has the astonishing ability to send clay targets crashing to earth in smithereens.

Of course, when you've won three world senior clay pigeon titles and are a reigning world veterans' champion, it goes without saying that your skills with the gun are second to none. But John's amazing trickshots are reserved strictly for his occasional performances. And the fair, taking place at the Norfolk Showground, Costessey, offers a rare chance to see them.

John, 57, developed an interest in shooting as a boy when he was growing up in Lowestoft and was introduced to clay pigeon shooting in his teens, before taking it up more seriously at the age of 22. He went on to represent England and Great Britain before going on to achieve world title glory.

The sport he loves has taken him around the world, yet he settled in his native Suffolk, where, over nearly 13 years, he and his family have built up the High Lodge sporting and conference centre near Saxmundham, offering shooting tuition, fishing and golf.

For his "stage show", John demonstrates his prowess with semi-automatic and pump-action shotguns. And it's highly likely that some unsuspecting faces in the crowd will find themselves hitting clays even though they have never fired a gun before in their lives – under John's expert supervision, of course.

Clay pigeon shooting has attracted an influx of men, women and youngsters in the past two decades, says John. What's the appeal? "There's the thrill of hitting a moving target and seeing it smash. Everyone likes to see a reaction," he explains. "There's also the challenge of competing not only against others but yourself.

"And, if you want to go further, there is nothing to stop you taking clay pigeon shooting from grass roots level all the way to the top," he adds.

Interested? Find out more at the fair, where there will be a 40-bird re-entry competition, including women's and juniors' sections, advice and have-a-go opportunities.

John's must-see demonstration is one of the undisputed highlights of this year's East Anglian Game & Country Fair which will take place on Saturday, April 23, and Sunday, April 24. The first fair was held last year and drew 24,000 people, way above expectations. Event organisers Andy and Tracey Grand have built on that success by adding lots more attractions to the packed programme for the two days. There'll be activities from 9.30am to

5pm and five rings for events instead of the two last year.

You don't shoot or fish? No matter. This event is for you even if your love of the countryside extends simply to a bracing stroll in the great outdoors, and there'll be various come-and-try-it sessions for those thinking of taking up a new pursuit.

There's something for Mum, Dad and the children. And if, like the Grands, you are avid dog-lovers, you'll be pleased to learn that this is one event where Fido and his friends are most welcome.

"It was amazing last year," smiles Andy. "We said to people 'Bring your family, your friends and your dogs too' – and they did. I've never seen so many dogs!"

The East Anglian Game & Country Fair will be held at the Norfolk Showground, Costessey, on Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24, 2005. Gates open at 9am each day, and there will be free parking. Admission is £8 for adults, £3 for children aged between five and 16, and under-fives free. Book before April 16 to buy one ticket and get one of the same value free. For advance tickets please call 0870 143 2202 or book online at: www.ukgamefair.co.uk. Remember to quote: "EDP Norfolk magazine". Plus there's a weekend break offer of £25 for up to four people and three nights' camping plus two days' free admission to the fair. Just take along your caravan, camper or tent. To reserve a camping place call 01508 531143.