

OH, WHAT A SHOW!

The East Anglian Game & Country Fair

Hosted in association with the EDP, the East Anglian Game and Country Fair took place at the Norfolk Showground over the weekend of April 28 and 29. This year's fair attracted record-breaking admissions over the two-day event, with one of the warmest weekends of the month a major influence.

Established attractions at the three-year-old show included archery, fly fishing and clay-pigeon shooting, with alpacas and horse logging new additions for this year, alongside an lovely forestry area, where people witnessed tree-climbing demonstrations and chainsaw carving, and a long netting display.

THE DUCK AGILITY DEMONSTRATIONS AND SUNDAY'S FERRET SHOW AND RACING ENTHRALLED BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE.

Other animal attractions included some excellent and mesmerising sheep-dog demonstrations, a sheep show and sheep shearing, which proved as big a crowd puller as in previous years. A falconry display was also new for this year.

For dog lovers, the Terrier and Lurcher Show was enormously successful, as was the superb display put on by the talented Essex dog display team. There were plenty of other events for dog lovers including gun-dog displays, dog jumping, dog agility competitions, a hound parade, a gun-dog scurry

and an enchanting pet-dog show that drew a continuous procession of 'ooohs' and 'arrhs'. Also new for this year, Willow Kelly performed with her dog Arwen demonstrating heel work, to the music from the Harry Potter Films.

John Bidwell proved to be as popular as ever with the crowds, filling three large grandstands and every square inch of standing space available, demonstrating his off-the-hip shooting display. John also ran the competition clay shoot, which had a record number of entrants.

For non-animal lovers there were over 300 trade stands at this year's show, up considerably on last year, and an excellent craft hall showcasing the best in both the traditional and modern. The health, beauty and lifestyle roadshow proved extremely popular this year – not just for women – and hot-air ballooning, an archery competition and helicopter flights were on offer for the more adventurous.



As always, the food hall was a major attraction for the hungry visitor, offering a huge and diverse range of local, home-made produce. Scattered conveniently throughout the showground was a vast range of food concessions fed and watering those on the move. Thankfully the venue now boasts a number of new brick-built public toilets, which were certainly welcomed by the majority, and clean and accessible baby-changing facilities.

The event's organisers Andy and Tracey Grand pulled out all the stops to make this year's show the best so far. In the first year they had 24,000 visitors, last year just over 40,000 and this year more than 50,000 people attended. After a few days well-earned rest they will start to organise next year's show:

"We will be adding new areas and displays to keep the show fresh and interesting for the public. Next year's show will be bigger and better than 2007!"