



# Rural Business News

## Plumpton College

## Issue 13

**The Plumpton College Autumn 2008 Rural Business News will be of interest to all land based businesses, in this issue:**

- **Make Use of Redundant Farm Buildings** see Rural Planning Surgeries and Seminars Page 2.
- **Train to Gain Funding** – is your business taking advantage of this? Page 3.
- **Generate income from your Woodland** Page 4.
- **Plumpton trains the fire brigades in large animal rescue** Page 5.
- **Grant Money Means Cheaper Courses** see RDPE funding Page 6.
- **How to find competent employees** Page 10.
- **Free Lamb survival seminar 20<sup>th</sup> November, book now** Page 12.

Plumpton College has training centres across Sussex, at Plumpton, Netherfield, Flimwell, Robertsbridge and Bexhill.

**Business Management**  
Page 2

**Business Training**  
Page 3

**Forestry**  
Page 4

**Equine & Agriculture**  
Page 5

**Plumpton College Netherfield**  
Page 6 & 7

**Horticulture - Plumpton**  
Page 8

**Horticulture - Green Oak**  
Page 9

**Work Based Learning**  
Page 10

**Wine and Viticulture**  
Page 11

**Agriculture**  
Page 12



**A Wood** is a sustainable resource which can be used for heating, recreation and sport. It can produce a significant income for the owner. See page 4 for more information.



BATCHELLER  
THACKER

### Planning Permission Headache? Attend a Free Plumpton Planning Surgery

Nick Ide a qualified planner hosts our surgeries. He has over 28 years experience in all planning matters. Previously a Chief Planner at Epsom and Ewell Borough Council in Surrey, and now in private practice with Batcheller Thacker, he is able to discuss all planning issues particularly those business related.

Your free one to one consultation is completely impartial and independent with no obligation and could cover:



- Redundant Farm Buildings
- Farm diversification
- Enforcement issues & Council queries
- What needs Planning Permission
- Zoning' what is it & can it be changed

Nick says, "The surgeries bring a huge variety of problems. I am able to explain what Councils have said or done and I find it is usually possible to re-present the issue in a quite different and often more helpful light. I aim to provide my "patients" with a clearer idea about what to do next".

Don Cranfield, Head of Plumpton College Business Training commented, "The College is delighted to offer this service to our land based business customers. Excellent feedback is received from those who have taken advantage of the free advice offered by Nick. He is a highly experienced and impartial planning expert". To book in please telephone Helen Marshall, 01273 892052, or email [helen.marshall@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:helen.marshall@plumpton.ac.uk)



### "Prepare to Meet Thy Planner"

Nick Ide is also delivering a series of one-day planning seminars for Business Link. These are taking place across the South East and will enable you to learn more about planning.

Please contact Lizzy Seward, at Business Link, telephone 01444 259232.



# BUSINESS TRAINING

## BASED AT PLUMPTON COLLEGE

### £280 Million Of Small Business Training Funding Not Claimed!

Astonishing, but true...that is how much allocated training money was left unspent in the Train to Gain 2007 budget. This money was re allocated to Universities, so has been effectively lost to businesses when it could have been used for the training and **up-skilling** of individuals.

What is stopping Companies training staff?

**Not knowing funding is available:**

Train to Gain is now in its third year. Vocational training is supplied to either Level 2 (equivalent to five GCSEs) or Level 3 for supervisory staff (equivalent to two A levels).

**Not knowing the format:**

Training is carried out predominantly in the workplace. Comprising of assessment of competence and training to current industry standards, training is usually between a year and eighteen months at, on average, one day per month. Evidence is collected during normal working activity until satisfactory competence is proven.

**Not enough time and too small :**

We have recently initiated a programme of assessment based at one forward thinking employer but with two others non-competing businesses joining to build a suitable programme. By pooling

resources they not only share best practice but also get access to training that would not be cost effective as a single entity.

Plumpton College can either discuss your training needs individually, or co-ordinate a group of local businesses that have similar training requirements.



Training is often the first victim of recession, but can improve productivity and profitability.

We provide Train to Gain programmes in the following courses: Forestry, Amenity Horticulture, Horse Care and Driving Goods Vehicles.

Please contact Irene Shrewsbury, Train to Gain Co-ordinator by e-mail [Irene.shrewsbury@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:Irene.shrewsbury@plumpton.ac.uk)



# FORESTRY

BASED AT MAIN COLLEGE, NETHERFIELD & FLIMWELL

PAGE 4



*Plumpton College in partnership with WealdWoodnet have an outreach centre for Forestry and Arboriculture at the Woodland Enterprise Centre near Flimwell*

A wood is a resource for recreation and sporting pursuits and in many cases these can produce a significant income for the woodland owner, in addition the heating of private houses, public buildings and offices using wood is becoming more popular. Using wood-fuel can contribute to a reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases.

Current Local Authority Building Regulations require new buildings and extensions above a certain size to achieve a minimum level of energy performance, expressed in terms of the level of CO2 emissions.



## Winter/Spring Courses

- Continuous Cover Forestry
- Archaeology of Woodlands
- Forestry First Aid
- Make a rustic bird table
- Woodland for Biodiversity
- Producing woodchip for heating**
- Assessing & Mapping Woodland
- Basic Tree ID & Standing Timber
- Assessment for Sustainable Timber Production
- Hedgelaying
- Trug Making
- Willow Garden Structures
- Hazel Hurdle Making
- Stock Fencing
- Post & Rail Fencing

Please contact 01424 775615 for further information.

The Woodland Enterprise Centre was specifically established to demonstrate innovation in wood-based technology, and opportunities for the use of local timber for sustainable construction and renewable energy.



# EQUINE AND AGRICULTURE BASED AT PLUMPTON COLLEGE

PAGE 5



**Get out of a hole!**

**Plumpton College has been delivering large animal handling and rescue courses for several years to East Sussex Fire and Rescue Crews (ESFR) and Kent Fire & Rescue.**

These have been developed in response to a need identified by the fire and rescue services to have a better understanding of how to approach and work with large animals in distress situations.

The **Equine and Agriculture Departments** have developed this training in partnership with ESFR into a four day course, which is now delivered to other fire brigades.

The first two days focus on cattle and horse handling and behaviour, with the final two days looking at strapping and lifting techniques from simulated rescue situations.

To facilitate practical work on lifting large animals out of ditches, rivers

and slurry lagoons, a practice pit has been constructed. This enables the training to be very practical, 'hands on' rescue scenario. East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service provide a 'Unimog' four-wheel drive vehicle with a high-ab crane, a winch facility on the crane and a range of specialist lifting equipment. The course was specifically designed to cover competency in several of the National Occupation Standards for rescue situations and we expect it to be nationally accredited as the approved programme for training Fire Service Rescue crews from around the country.

Plumpton College is delighted to be able to offer assistance through training the safe rescue of cattle and horses.

**See [www.plumpton.ac.uk](http://www.plumpton.ac.uk) for details of all training and events.**

# CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND FARMING

BASED AT PLUMPTON COLLEGE AT NETHERFIELD

PAGE 6

## Grants to assist with training for farming and forestry businesses are now available.

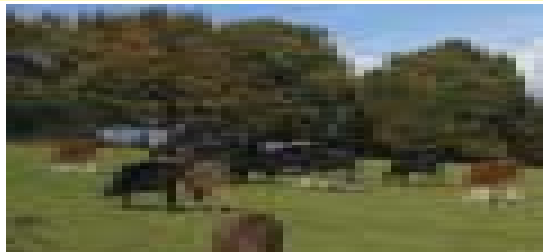
The grant funding, which can be up to 70% of course fees, comes from the LandSkills South East Programme and is part of the new Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).

The RDPE, which is jointly funded by the EU and Defra, is particularly targeted at livestock farmers to improve standards of animal health and welfare, increase efficiency and competitiveness, and to support effective management of nutrients.

Plumpton College is offering RDPE funded courses to eligible trainees. Courses include a full range of livestock and meat processing courses and Business Management training.

To benefit from the grant participants must be engaged in a business which is dependent on agriculture, horticulture or forestry and spend 50% of their working time in these activities.

The LandSkills South East programme is managed by LANTRA in partnership with the Rural Business Advice and Training (RBAT) Network. RDPE is delivered by the South East of England Development Agency



(SEEDA) and Lantra and is jointly funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development and DEFRA

## 2009 Get Skilled in Butchery Courses

### January

- 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Lamb Butchery
- 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Food Smoking
- 26<sup>th</sup> Beef Butchery Demonstration
- 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Pork Butchery
- 29<sup>th</sup> Sausage Making
- tbc Salami/Cured Sausage Making
- tbc Poultry Processing

### February

- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Lamb Butchery
- 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Venison Butchery

## Livestock Courses 2008 - 2009

### December

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Selection of Finished Livestock (INVITATION TO JOIN COURSE TUTOR AT HAILSHAM FATSTOCK SHOW 3RD DECEMBER INCLUDED)

### February

- 5<sup>th</sup> Starting a Sheep Flock
- 11<sup>th</sup> Lambing
- 18<sup>th</sup> Lambing

For full course list please visit [www.thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk](http://www.thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk)



### Do You Have Your Certificate to Transport Animals?

If your regular livestock market or slaughter house is over 20 miles away you should by now have a **Certificate of Competence in the Transport of Animals by Road** for each species you are transporting. The regulation applies to trips of over 65km (about 40miles) if the journey is for business purposes. Our understanding is that the round trip from farm to abattoir or market and back to the farm is measured - not just the single journey to the abattoir.

Trading Standard's interpretation of the regulation can vary from area to area so if in doubt contact your local office to find out if your particular journey requires certification.

There is a combined certificate for sheep and cattle and separate certificates for pigs, poultry, goats and horses. A Long Journey Certificate is also required for journeys over 8 hours.

To obtain a certificate you must sit a multiple choice test on a computer provided by the test centre. Plumpton College can arrange a training session and book candidates to take the tests (Plumpton College is a National Proficiency Testing Council assessment centre).

The location for the training and test can be flexible so long as we have a suitable room and there are sufficient numbers attending. Plumpton College can provide additional individual support for those who require assistance with literacy or using computers.

For more information please contact Plumpton College at Netherfield on 01424 775615 or e: [info@thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk](mailto:info@thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk)

RDPE grant funding (see page 6) is available for eligible candidates to assist with the cost of the training fee.



*Plumpton College Netherfield, Centre for Sustainable Food and Farming assists farmers and growers to farm in a sustainable way, by providing, training in butchery skills, work shadowing and demonstration farm visits. Telephone, e-mail advice, on-farm visits, signposting to advice, training, and grants; networking farmers and growers and producers and retail outlets.*

# Horticulture

## BASED AT MAIN COLLEGE

PAGE 8

### Training Need? - Discuss It With Plumpton

The Horticultural Department at Plumpton College . It continues to develop strong links with industry as it increasingly serves the needs of both employer and employee.

Bespoke courses are delivered either at the College or more often in the work place where realistic situations abound.

Legal requirements necessitate initial training and periodic updates in many aspects including:

- Health and Safety
- Machine use
- Machinery Maintenance

Increasingly contactors and client managers are realising the need to develop basic skills and update existing skills for those within their workforce.

Subject areas for training this autumn include:

- Pruning,
- Plant identification,
- Bowling green maintenance
- Cricket square maintenance
- Manual handling.

Training only develops after an initial discussion with the employer at which point a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) is undertaken.

Needs are identified for all staff for both the short and long term benefit of the organisation.

The Amenity and Sportsturf Curriculum Advisory Panels (CAP) which meet twice a year is an ideas forum for the sector and a way of liaising with the industry. Panels are composed of individuals from different sectors of the industry. From one of these meeting it was decided to market a **land based engineering course in Horticulture**. Interest and demand resulted in the first intake of the course in September, the machinery industry has been very supportive in helping to resource the facility. Tools have been bought with generous discounts and specialist equipment, in particular a cylinder grinder and bottom blade grinder, has been obtained on a lease hire basis.

Please contact David Blackmur on 01273 890454.



# HORTICULTURE

BASED AT MAIN COLLEGE & NETHERFIELD & ROBERTSBRIDGE

PAGE 9

## Plan and Plant an Orchard

Plumpton College will be planting a traditional orchard and are taking this unique opportunity to offer a **Plan and Plant an Orchard** training day. The course will take place at Green Oak Farm, near Robertsbridge, East Sussex on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December** and will be run with Common Cause's Community Orchard Project.

Green Oak Farm is Plumpton College's horticultural centre in the east of the region. It is a 10 acre site, formerly an organic market garden.

Instructor Peter May has experience in commercial horticulture orchards and plant propagation and is currently grafting rare varieties of Sussex apples for the Green Oak orchard.



The training event will cover the principles and practices of planting a healthy orchard, site selection, soil types, resistant varieties, identifying diseases and pests, choosing pollinators, and maintaining biodiversity. Existing fruit trees on the site will be inspected for pests and diseases and a practical session will include how to plant a variety of trees. Traditional orchards are fast declining. However, they represent a superb educational, cultural & community centred resource, and provide a valuable habitat for a variety of invertebrates and plants, attracting a host of bird and mammal life. They also provide a crucial aspect of the personality and character of a place for future generations to appreciate and protect.

Please telephone Sharon Hamby on 01424 775615 or by email at [sharon.hamby@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:sharon.hamby@plumpton.ac.uk)





# WORK BASED LEARNING

BASED AT MAIN COLLEGE & NETHERFIELD

PAGE 10

## **National Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service -**

a brand new way of finding competent and enthusiastic workers.

This new free service is being launched nationally by the Government in December to employers and rolled out to potential employees from the beginning of January. For the first time this will flag any potential apprentice vacancy free of charge to a national (or even EU wide) audience.

**All businesses are investigating ways of driving down costs**, so having a one stop shop to recruit either novices, partly trained or junior management staff will save time and money. The advert will accurately describe your requirements and will be checked for legislative compliance. Vacancies can be filled in one of three ways:

■ **Employers post a vacancy** after looking at similar vacancies offered elsewhere. They can re-use generic or branded adverts. Applications can be forwarded directly back to them, or, to avoid paperwork, to the Vacancy Manager at Plumpton to sift the best potential. Work experience providers may register, enabling them to evaluate a year 12 learner if appropriate.

■ **Potential Apprentices** will have a space to post their availability in an occupational area for employers to search. They will also have a “my space” type area where they will be able to start mapping potential employers offering apprenticeships in their geographic area. They will only be able to apply for jobs from 16, but this will help build local relationships with quality employers via holiday /casual jobs etc.

■ **Advertise as you do** currently. The greater the visibility, the greater the opportunity for finding the best person to fill a job vacancy. Schools and the Connexions service will promote this service as will any college starting to offer the New Diplomas.

For land based businesses, this will give valuable new opportunities for more academic yet practical students. Please telephone the vacancy Manager on 01273 892050.



# WINE & VITICULTURE

BASED AT MAIN COLLEGE

PAGE 11

## Plumpton Teach The French About Wine

Seven business students from Beaujolais joined pickers from Plumpton College in East Sussex during their harvest this year.

The group, from Lycée Bel Air in St Jean d'Ardières, are studying "**The Wine Trade in Britain**", a course specially formulated for them by the College. The picking came as a break between their classroom studies which include modules on wine evaluation, wines of the world, work placement and a dissertation on a subject of their choice.

The French students have been netting vines and picking Seyval Blanc and Reichensteiner. Perhaps not the balmiest of vintages in Sussex for them, but they report that conditions have not been much different back at home.

Student Romain Jambon was philosophical saying "picking has been hard work but good fun too and thankfully the weather has been much drier than it was in September".

Commenting on the vintage, Peter Morgan, Plumpton's winemaker said that "volumes are not quite as we would have liked due to inclement weather during flowering and fruit set – we are down by a third on last year. But sugar levels in grapes have been good and acidity levels are elevated meaning more chance of Malolactic fermentation being employed and essentially very good for freshness."



A wide range of courses are available from this specialist unit. The winery coupled with a new HE and science centre ensures the college is at the leading edge of wine and viticulture education and training. Six hectares of vines produce over 10,000 bottles of wine a year. For more information please contact 01273 890454 or see [www.plumpton.ac.uk](http://www.plumpton.ac.uk) or email enquiries @plumpton.ac.uk

## Maximising Lamb Survival

**Maximising lamb survival means more pounds in your pocket; this free meeting, run by the Moredun Foundation for sheep farmers, could make all the difference.**

During the lambing season millions of new born lambs die.

The reasons are complex and problems that do arise can be difficult to predict.

Chris Lewis MRCVS, a sheep specialist with years of veterinary experience will try to unravel this complex subject and highlight the many factors that can predispose the newborn lamb to disease and provide practical guidance and information on how you can maximize lamb survival in your flocks.

### Venue:

Sussex Rural Business Centre at Plumpton College, Plumpton. BN7 3AE  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm. Admission is free and open to all, but to help us please book in by telephoning 01273 892052.

Volvac Animal Health have kindly sponsored this event.



## How to Contact Plumpton College

### Main College

Plumpton College, Ditching Road, Plumpton, BN7 3AE  
Telephone 01273 892052. Email. [helen.marshall@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:helen.marshall@plumpton.ac.uk)

### Sussex Rural Business Centre, Plumpton College

Head of Business Training - Don Cranfield. Telephone 01273 892031  
Email. [don.cranfield@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:don.cranfield@plumpton.ac.uk) - [www.plumpton.ac.uk](http://www.plumpton.ac.uk)

### Plumpton College at Netherfield

Netherfield Place Farm, Netherfield, Battle, TN33 9PY

Head of Centre - Simon Bishop. Telephone 01424 775615.

Email. [simon@thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk](mailto:simon@thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk). [www.thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk](http://www.thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk)

General enquiries – [info@thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk](mailto:info@thenetherfieldcentre.co.uk)