



## Clinton Devon Estates' woodlands take top award



Clinton Devon Estates has won a top national award for the way in which it manages its woodlands.

At the Royal Forestry Society Excellence Awards held at the Forestry Commission's National Arboretum at Westonbirt, Clinton Devon Estates was awarded silver in the Duke of Cornwall Multipurpose Woodlands Award 2012.

Commenting on the award, John Wilding, Head of Forestry and Environmental Economy for Clinton Devon Estates said: "In so many ways we operate a traditional estate so it is very pleasing to have achieved this

level of recognition for our multi-purpose woodlands which are thriving as a result of continued thinning and careful management. In the face of dealing with the on-going challenges of new pests and diseases, we have been able to produce high quality timber as well as providing areas of important public recreation space."

Tim Sawyer, former Forestry Commission Operation Manager for South and West England, who led the judging team, said: "The forestry industry faces a tough challenge persuading the public that management practices such as coppicing, thinning and cutting down trees and managing squirrels and deer, can be good for woodlands, but our winners demonstrate just how much can be achieved when appropriate techniques are used well."

The annual RGS Woodlands Awards recognise best practice across four categories; Multipurpose (Duke of Cornwall), Silviculture, Community and Small Woodlands (up to 20 hectares) and a Schools Award.

## Clinton Devon Estates first accountancy trainee is a success story



A scheme set up by the Estate to train the next generation of accountancy professionals has produced its first success story.

Luke Andrews joined the company three years ago as its first Graduate Trainee Management Accountant, based at the Rolle Estate Office. At the end of this month he joins private equity company – The Constantine Group – as a fully qualified accountant, having passed his Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) professional

exams.

Twenty-seven year old Luke, who left Bournemouth University with a degree in Accountancy and Finance explained: "I was looking for a training contract which would enable me to gain an internationally recognised accountancy qualification and provide me with the practical experience I needed to further a career in financial management. With the Estate I was able to cover a very broad spectrum of work from forecasting and budgeting to financial accounts as well as company and individual tax planning." He added: "I have gained an incredible insight into many aspects of business, both large and small and had the opportunity to work with a management team that is proud of the Estates' brand locally, regionally and nationally and have felt privileged to have helped to enhance that brand in a very dynamic and changing environment."

David Cobb, Clinton Devon Estates' Finance Director, who is now looking for the next graduate trainee to join the company, said: "We wish Luke the very best in his future career. He is our first success story and we hope there will be many others to follow."

## Heath Week 2012 By Bungy Williams



After months of planning and preparation the East Devon Heath Week kicked off on Sunday 29th July with the Family Festival launch day at Woodbury Castle. Over 280 people attended the event enjoying a huge range of activities. Testament to the fantastic public support for the event, there were queues all day for the Landrover Experience Safaris and the Storyteller was full, it amazes me how rapt and silent children can be when a good story is being told.

This year the RSPB brought some of their grazing ponies and new to the event were demonstrations of traditional bush craft.

The Royal Albert Museum set up a stall with displays and things for children to make. Most people stayed all day experiencing all the activities on offer with one couple even travelling from Bristol for the festival. They were able to picnic on the heaths or buy food from a range of local stalls.

Throughout the week all the nature discovery walks were full, with a new one added to the schedule called 'Discovering the underground reservoir; the secret pipe line'.

The rest of the week's programs were all well attended with the nightjar and quarry walks being fully booked and turning people away.

The mountain bike ride was a gentle introduction to the heaths and what



they are about as well as a great way to introduce people to exploring the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths, the ride was finished off with a welcome sausage supper at a local Inn.

Both Devon Wildlife Trust and the RSPB held their own days, that were also well attended. The RSPB ran a dawn to dusk bonanza of walks, pond dipping and barbecue.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all who helped make this week such a success.



## Brendan Harris Top Game Keeping Apprentice



Brendan Harris, an apprentice Game Keeper with Kevin Brosnan, Head Keeper in North Devon, has been presented with the Top Game Keeping Apprentice Award at the Duchy College award ceremony on 28th June 2012.

The award was presented by guest speaker Catherine Mead, Director of Lynher Dairies Cheese Company, a family run business in Cornwall producing traditionally made Yarg Cornish cheese.

This award is testament to Brendan's hard work over the last year and reflects his dedication to his chosen career. A huge congratulations on behalf of all of us on the Estate.