



ABC Marquees – June '09
Press Release:

A SUCCESSFUL OPEN DAY AT PLUMPTON COLLEGE

Plumpton College received over 12,000 visitors during their Open Day last month. This popular annual event, near Brighton in East Sussex, was an opportunity to discover the various land-based study courses available, described first-hand by current students.

ABC Marquees provided outdoor furniture and canopy hire for the event, as part of a long-standing relationship with the college.

Housed on an 800 hectare estate at the foot of the South Downs, Plumpton College is a picturesque setting to enjoy the study opportunities available here, from school programmes through to Degree level courses.

There was plenty to entertain and inspire potential newcomers to the college, with many small animals and livestock to meet, plus displays and demonstrations throughout the Open Day. There were tractor tours and estate tours around the farm, the veterinary nurse training centre, animal care centre and the college's commercial winery and wine science centre. Many visitors enjoyed sampling the wine for themselves, to promote Plumpton's degree wine courses – currently the only course available in English throughout Europe.

After enjoying displays including gundogs, falconry, and dancing horses, forestry events and machinery parades, guests could sit and relax in the open air, or shelter under-cover in a marquee - in preparation for typical British weather.

Lunch was provided by a 'food village' offering a range of local produce, and there were attractions to suit all tastes, with a crafts arena, children's activities, equine schools, outdoor adventurous activities, dog shows, greenhouses and garden design exhibits. Visitors were able to see working forges at metalsmithing, sheep shearing at the farm and watch the cows being milked.

Equine events staged in the indoor riding schools entertained visitors with dressage, drill rides, lunges and show jumping, and visitors to the Equine Department could also try rides on the equine simulator horse.

The Outdoor Education Department staged a variety of outdoor sports displays, including canoes, mountain bikes, climbing walls and a hiking display, with guided walks such as the bluebell woodland around the college estate.

The dog grooming unit was busy while outside in the main arena students on the animal care course organised an exciting dog show. Terrier racing also drew an appreciative audience.

An enjoyable and educational day was had by all who attended the event, with current students proudly presenting their knowledge, and plenty of interest in college courses shown by both young and mature visitors.

ABC Marquees provided ample seating and shelter for the event, and enjoyed attending the successful Open Day. The next outdoor event ABC Marquees will serve at Plumpton College is the upcoming Summer Ball, where a more luxurious marquee and furnishings will be required to celebrate the end of the college year.

For the full list of courses available at Plumpton College please visit: www.plumpton.ac.uk

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